

ILLUSTRATED TIMES

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No. LVIII.—VOL. II.

LONDON, SATURDAY, JUNE 14, 1856.

PRICE, TWOPENCE.
STAMPED 8d.

CAPITAL PUNISHMENTS.

As early as the time of Erasmus and Sir Thomas More, the advanced minds of Europe had begun to suspect that criminal punishments were too severe. Their ideas spread very slowly. The age of Shakspeare and Bacon did not shrink from the spectacle of a death for treason, nor from the infliction of torture. The age of Addison and Berkeley did not shrink from the spectacle of the pillory, and sent men and women to the gallows in batches. Very gradually did milder notions diffuse themselves; but if they spread gradually, they spread surely. Toleration became, in due time, a fashion, and philanthropy likewise. We now do not require an Erasmus to keep our severity in check; a Mr. Ewart will do. We have given up the old kinds of punishments all but entirely,—the brandings, whippings, maimings, and burnings, which, with our ancestors, were matters of course. And year by year, as hanging itself becomes less frequent, it is urged on us that it ought to be abolished entirely. This is the point on which we propose to offer some remarks to-day; and it may be as well to say frankly that we are *not* prepared to go the last step with the humanitarians. On the contrary, we see the necessity of maintaining the last and worst of all punishments in its simple form—death by the law. We think it at once justifiable and necessary; and we look on the many arguments and agitations brought against it, as being, indeed, the very natural results of the changes of our life, but yet as being essentially fallacious, both in regard to the past and the future of society—as being false abstractedly, and false practically. We mean nothing disrespectful to the men who think otherwise; though, at the same time, we are aware that philanthropy, like everything else, has its cant now-a-days, and that, to be an open enemy to the gallows, is a character often assumed for the sake of its respectability by public men, who would find it difficult to attract attention in any other way.

Now, in the first place, we have a vast deal more respect than most people, who call themselves enlightened, for the general voice of nature and history. Anything a thousand years old has a great deal to say for itself in our eyes; anything that rests on an instinct, we, *primâ facie*, respect in particular. This was one of the great arguments among the ancients for the existence of a Divine power. No nation, said they, is so savage as not to have some rude notion of it. No nation, we may truly say, has not claimed to itself a right to dispose of the life of its members for the sake of the State. It is a natural impulse—one which, as Mr. Carlyle has truly said, any man would act on, who, returning to his house, found his wife murdered and the murderer standing by. We hate the murderer naturally; we are hasty in abolishing him, and the air seems clearer after he has gone. Why is this? "Why?"—we cannot altogether answer about most things. It is a feeling which is its own justification—like the equally natural love of off-

spring. Our moral being turns on love and hate. The Bible recognises them—not only in the terrible severity of the Old Testament, but in the doctrines of the New. The religion which preaches eternal punishments cannot be considered as condemning just severity. The State recognises, and has everywhere recognised, this same instinct of which we speak; it adopts the sentiment of the private individual, and makes it its own. It therefore adopts, among others, the feeling which prompts us to seek life for life, and embodies it in its institutions as law. And what it first did from instinct, it continues to do from reflection and experience. For we are prepared to justify

ment by death, were not as horrible to them as to us. And as the changes of the times altered these old habits, they likewise altered punishments. As men gave up baiting bears, they gave up boring vagabonds' ears; as they no longer saw violent deaths commonly they shuddered more at violent death by the law. It was right and natural that we should grow less severe: all life had changed, and these things changed as parts of it. Law everywhere became a more pervading influence; there was more time to attend to criminals. We gave up hanging horse-stealers, because, relatively, horse-stealing was not such a bad and dangerous offence as it had once been.

But the one transcendental offence (as we may call it), the crime of murder, stands on grounds of its own. Society cannot be prevailed on to look at it like the others; and only a few are in favour of abolishing the punishment of death for it. How is this? The explanation is simple. Murder trenches on the great mysteries of death and the future life, and passes out of the bounds of ordinary calculation. In the first place, no civilisation stops murders; indeed, it produces peculiar ones of its own. In the second place, no civilisation, however it softens our manners, really takes away the original instincts of our being. The world hates the murderer as much as ever, and the learned and the wise send him to his account as implacably as did the grave, stern old men of early times.

The few who think otherwise now step in with a variety of their favourite objections. Let us look at them. They tell us, for example, that we have positively no right to "destroy life." But here there is a great mistake. The State does not destroy the *life* of the criminal in the true sense; it turns him out of his present bodily habitation, and of the earth, to which he is become odious, but the sacred part of him is indestructible. Over life, in its common acceptation, the State, like the individual, exercises authority in many ways. Soldiers and sailors risk their lives, or even sacrifice them deliberately. There is nothing superlatively holy in mere existence; the martyr, the hospital nurse, the surgeon in a plague, waste it, at a throw, *in a cause*. We destroy the criminal's existence in the cause of society—to fulfil society's demand for justice, and to take precautions for its maintenance. It is the cause which justifies it,

but that is quite enough. But you destroy the criminal's chance of repentance, say some. This idea, however, is quite false. The best thing that can happen to a thorough villain, in a spiritual way, is to be hanged; for, when he finds himself face to face with doom, it generally opens his heart to some sense of eternal truth. Hence so many of them have made edifying ends. But without this stimulus, who supposes that they would have repented as effectually? As for the cases in which they die hardened, all we reply is, that if they had been spared, they would have lived worse. Besides, by what right does anybody say that the time which the law allows is



DOUBTFUL FORTUNE.—(FROM A PAINTING BY A. SOLOMON, IN THE ROYAL ACADEMY EXHIBITION.—SEE PAGE 434.)

this punishment on these grounds as well; though we believe, with Mr. Carlyle, that the original instinct implanted in us is the surest ground on which to rest it.

It is true that all nations grow milder as they grow civilised; but nature is not to be civilised away. Our old punishments were severer, not because men's lives were worse, but because men's lives were harder. When tilting with lances at each other was thought fun, pain was not so shocking as now; and when a Douglas thanked God that few of his ancestors had died in their beds, death was not so shocking as now. It followed that punishment by pain, and punish-

not sufficient for repentance to be efficacious? This is directly contrary to Christian truth.

Our abolitionists, however, are not content with a protest on moral grounds—they take up the question on the grounds of expediency, and they deny that executions deter from crime. Now, the expediency is only one part of the matter, in our belief; for society is justified in chastising crime, because it is crime, without reference to example at all. However, on this ground we will meet them too. We assert that the fear of death is so strong an instinct in human nature, that it must deter many; and we ask our readers to poll on this subject the honestest, plainest men of their acquaintance, who have no theories at all, but are sensible and practical. "Yes, but you hang for murders, and murders take place!" Well, and how many more might take place if we did not? What statistics can give us the unknown multitude over whom the fear of the gallows has operated for good in some secret hour? When you show us an increase at special periods in spite of hanging, we say that there must be other causes at work, which you do not allow for, but that still the increase itself would be greater if this punishment was abolished. Perhaps we shall be told, that the more certain a man is to be hanged, the more likely he is to commit a murder! How is it, we want to know, that your murderer usually makes some effort to murder secretly, and has an undue eagerness to get his victim into a "stout oaken coffin"? What is he afraid of? Why, the gallows, of course, as every man whose head is free from cant and humbug knows. True, the motive which impels him to murder is stronger often than this fear. But that is with a strong-nerved villain. The weak-nerved villain is deterred; and when we hang the first, we alarm the second.

Here let us observe that one great mischief comes from the bad administration of this punishment, and helps to neutralise the good of the punishment itself—we inflict it irregularly. We spare some, and yet punish others, in cases where the common mind can see no reasons for making a distinction. Hence, an element of chance is introduced into the matter, and the villain fancies that he may have "luck." A sporting kind of villain, we can easily believe, might be tempted, in particular, by such a notion. We ought to hang with Rhadamanthine accuracy for certain crimes. It is well known, that, with regard to flogging, a ship of war where the captain acts uncertainly, and sometimes gives punishment and sometimes not, for the same offences, always has more offences, in the long run, than one where there is an immutable, impartial code, from which there is no escape. All this shocks sentimentalists, but such people are unfit for the government of mankind. We are a long way off the Millennium yet; we have criminals as black as ever lived at any time. The devil is not dead, but travels in a railway as readily as in a more "barbarous" mode of conveyance. We had better stick to nature, and adopt the measures for our safety which God, nature, history, and society, from time immemorial, prompt us to use.

A word on the awful mobs which public executions attract. These mobs are not created by the executions—they only draw the material together which exists independent of them. It is not the fault of the law that some men behave like brutes, and some women like furies. That is an accident as regards the execution, and belongs to the general state of society at the time. Rabble will be rabble anywhere. Now and then we are told that a "rough" is heard to say, "It's only a kick;" but this is a bit of bravado before his brother roughs,—in his solitary moments, we venture to assert, he thinks a little more seriously of it. We are not bigoted on the subject of publicity of executions, only we think that it is fairer both to mob and criminal.

The opponents of this punishment have yet to find a substitute; and this is impossible, because all other punishments differ from death, not in degree, but in kind. You cannot find an alternative fit to weigh against it. But by sparing the criminal who has committed murder, you do an injury to a lesser criminal, who finds himself on a level with him. You entail on the State the expense and trouble of his care and maintenance; you take away the one last and worst terror from base natures, and you set in defiance of an instinct and a custom which have prevailed in every nation of the world, and under the sanction of the best and wisest men who have ever lived. It is no answer to all this to give us vague generalities about our "enlightenment" and our "progress." Mr. Ewart is not more enlightened than Dr. Johnson, or than the Law, Church, and State of England. We add, without hesitation, to these authorities, that of the public opinion of this country, which, we are quite sure, looks on punishment by death as a sad and terrible necessity, with which we are by no means able to dispense.

Foreign Intelligence.

FRANCE.

THE most welcome piece of intelligence is the complete change the weather has undergone, and the consequent diminishing of the floods. The waters, in fact, are everywhere receding. The Emperor made a second journey into the devastated provinces. He has given orders for the immediate commencement of the proposed works, to avoid the future overflow of the rivers of France. The system of high parapets will be adopted generally at Lyons; and, indeed, on the Rhone and Saône generally. The Loire, on which immense sums of money have from time to time been spent, is to receive the immediate attention of the engineers also.

The Emperor, on his return from the departments which have suffered from the inundations, entertained the idea of devoting to their relief the sums intended for the public festivities on the occasion of the baptism of the Prince Imperial; but the preparations were already too far advanced, and therefore no change will take place in the arrangements already made.

Great activity is displayed at Plombières in preparing apartments for the Emperor and suite.

The Empress, last week, visited the Cattle Show. Her Majesty was drawn along in a wheeled chair. A shepherd, who lately presented her with a cow, came up and offered his hand. She shook it heartily, and the man followed her during the whole of her visit, pushing her chair along.

The Papal Legate has arrived in Paris.

M. Lejollivet, a correspondence agent who was arrested on the charge of surreptitiously obtaining a copy of the treaty of Paris, was tried for that offence on Friday, and sentenced to two years' imprisonment. A printer employed at the *Imprimerie Impériale*, through whose agency the treaty reached M. Lejollivet, was sentenced to fifteen months.

The Paris Bourse has shown itself very subject to panic lately.

SPAIN.

A CONSPIRACY to assassinate the Queen has been discovered. The following are some details of the affair:—A man, named Rendondo Marquez, organised a secret society three months ago, and a young carpenter was drawn into it. It having been resolved to kill the Queen, this young man, named Fuentes, was designated by lot to do the deed; and it was told that if he fired on her Majesty, a sum of 2,000 piastres should be given to him, and that, if he failed to do so, he should certainly be put to death by his fellow-conspirators. On the 28th ult., therefore, at the moment at which the carriage of the Princess of the Asturias approached the *Calli del Arenal*, Fuentes drew a pistol from his pocket, but a police

agent seized his arm, and prevented him from discharging the weapon. On being interrogated, he made known the facts above related.

The municipality of Barcelona has petitioned the Queen to suspend, at least for a year, the formation of new societies of credit, and companies not having an object of undoubted utility.

AUSTRIA.

COUNT BRUL has had of late several conferences with the English ambassador, Sir Hamilton Seymour, which appear to have resulted in proving that the opinions of the two governments respecting the Priorities are very conflicting. It is not disguised that the deliberation of the commission charged with this affair will be protracted and full of difficulties. Meanwhile it is sought to gain over France to the Austrian propositions, and notes have been actively exchanged between the cabinets of Vienna and Paris.

RUSSIA.

THE Emperor has again, in a second speech, declared himself ready to do everything that lay in his power to develop the prosperity of Poland. His Majesty's address concluded, however, with a menace to this effect, "Be it known also to you, gentlemen, that when it is necessary I can punish, and will do so."

The Russian Government has given orders for reducing the personnel of the Finland fleet. A ukase orders that the colours of the disbanded militia shall be hung up in the cathedrals of the empire.

It appears that the proposed marriage of the Grand Duke Michael with the Princess Sidonia of Saxony has been broken off, in consequence of the Princess's objection to the difference of religion. The Princess Mary of the Netherlands is now spoken of for the Grand Duke.

A steam squadron, consisting of one liner of 60 guns, two frigates, and two corvettes, is fitting out, and will leave Cronstadt almost immediately for Palermo, whither the Empress repairs for her health.

Russia, it appears, has determined—the Court of Pekin having given its consent—to appoint a *chargé d'affaires* at the Government of the Celestial Empire, in the place of a simple consul at Canton.

ITALY.

THE Austrian Government has resolved, it is stated, to erect the Lombardo-Venetian Provinces into a kingdom of Upper Italy, and to place a prince of Italian birth—the Grand Duke of Tuscany, who is also an Austrian Archduke—on the throne. To this determination the Cabinet of Austria is to have been brought by its anxiety to neutralise the growing popularity of Piedmont.

The Austrians are working hard to finish the fort of Pavia, and a second fort is to be built outside the town. A small camp of observation is to be formed two miles from Pavia.

In Piedmont, popular festivals and ovations prove the existence of an entire accord between the soldiers and the citizens. The city of Turin has voted 50,000 francs, that of Genoa 20,000 for banquets to the army.

The opening of letters at the Post Office is persisted in at Parma, Modena, and Rome. They are re-sealed and delivered; but arrests are frequent. No reasons are ever given for these arrests.

The Roman government is trying to raise recruits in Switzerland, but the higher pay of England has monopolised all the available volunteers. The papal government requires 10,000 men to complete its musters—and it is not likely to get them.

The universal excitement continues and forces Austria to take great precaution. For example, single sentinels are no longer posted at different points of the towns—they are concentrated in the Corps de Garde; and in order to protect them from the knife, they are placed behind grates of iron. In the mornings the police has much ado to remove from the walls inscriptions in honour of Victor Emmanuel and Cavour, and appeals to the Piedmontese.

It is rumoured that the evacuation of the Roman States by the French and Austrian troops is to commence on the 1st of October next.

TURKEY.

THE Russian Commissioner has orders to withdraw, in case Moklis-Pacha, formerly Prince de Stourdza, should be admitted to take part in the deliberations of the commission charged to settle the question of the Principalities.

A great fermentation is said to prevail among the Turks on the subject of the Hatti-Humayoun. At Podgorizza the Turks have burnt two Catholic churches and killed two Christians; at Niseki, near Montenegro, the Christians, in order to avenge themselves for the continual outrages they meet with, have attacked and pillaged a caravan coming from Ragusa; fourteen Turks were killed.

General Shirley will remain with his staff at Constantinople.

A conscription of 13,000 Rayahs will shortly take place.

The Sultan has distributed medals to the Turkish troops.

AMERICA.

THERE have been many exciting rumours from America, but little news. The "New York Herald," received by various mails, states most emphatically that Mr. Crampton has received his passports, adding that, "The thing was done so quietly, that few can believe it even now." The assertion was, at least, premature; for letters have been since received from Mr. Crampton, in which his dismissal is ignored.

From Central America we learn that the Costa Ricans had shipped 300 wounded from Juan del Sur, and that their army had retreated from Nicaragua by land. The Costa Ricans say they were deceived in regard to the feeling of the people of Nicaragua towards Walker, and expected to be received with open arms. These statements are given merely as rumours.

Senor Marcolleta, the Minister of Nicaragua at Washington, has protested against the reception of Padre Vijil (Walker's emissary) as representative of that State.

Affairs in Kansas are now very exciting. The pro-slavery and anti-slavery parties, are striving for the mastery, and the feeling of bitterness between them has arisen to such a pitch that it is likely soon to manifest itself in a bloody battle, for which both parties are armed and otherwise well prepared. Indeed, civil strife has already commenced. The town of Lawrence is destroyed. The hotel and printing-office of Kansas city are also demolished, but few lives are lost. Lynch law is in active operation.

Canada is providing for the armament of her militia with the very best weapons and the latest improved equipments. We notice the landing from an English ship of 120 cases of Minié rifles, carbines, swords, and pistols, all expressly for the militia, of which a formidable force has recently been enrolled and officered.

AUSTRALIA.

TRADE at Melbourne continues steady; the balance is in favour of the colony; the value of the exports for five weeks being £1,917,000, against an amount of £1,400,000 in imports. The prices of all the necessities of life moderate, and the want of labourers generally felt.

Melbourne having been deprived for 105 days of any advices from England, the legislature of Victoria has been urged to take measures for the establishment of a regular and speedy steam packet communication, and the sum of £75,000 has been voted for that purpose.

In New South Wales, as well as in the province of Victoria, it appears that the attempts to bring the constitutional system of responsible government into working order have not in the first instance been very successful.

There is also some intelligence from New Zealand, where, although the natives in the neighbourhood of Taranaki were still in a disquieted state at the latest date of our news, the colony in general continues to enjoy as much peace and prosperity as the other provinces of the Australian group.

INUNDATIONS IN SWITZERLAND.—Accounts from Basle give disastrous news of the effects produced by the late rains in that neighbourhood. A part of the side of the mountain, in the commune of Bokten, has slipped, from being saturated with water. Several houses have been destroyed, and cultivated grounds have been covered with trees. The fruit trees have been much injured; the crop of cherries has been entirely destroyed.

AN ATTEMPT has been made, on the side of the Persian Government, to arrange the differences with England by the mediation of the Porte, and a commissioner (a devoted friend of Russia) has been sent to Stamboul.

LORD CLARENCE ON THE OCCUPATION OF THE PAPAL STATES.

THE following despatch, from the Earl of Clarence to Sir James Lyons, is contained in a parliamentary paper just issued:—

Sir—I have the pleasure to enclose the copy of a note which was forwarded to Paris, by the plenipotentiary of Sardinia. The verbal communication which I frequently had the pleasure of holding with Count Cavour, both before and subsequently to the receipt of this note, can have left no doubt as to the excellence of that Majesty's Government in taking a decision and carrying it out in the affair of Italy, and are desirous of doing every thing in their power to be done by them, with a view to embolden the people, and to bring about a state of things, which disturbs the equilibrium, and may endanger the peace of Europe; and that, by indirectly affording sanction to misgovernment, and notes discontent and a tendency to revolution among the people. Her Majesty's Government are aware, that, as this state of things has now, unfortunately, some years been established, it may be possible that it could not suddenly be brought to a close without some danger to public order, and the risk of producing events that all would deplore; but Her Majesty's Government are convinced that the evacuation of the Papal territory may be rendered safe and early by a policy of wisdom and justice, and they entertain a hope that the measures agreed upon by the Governments of France and Austria, leading to a gradual withdrawal of their respective forces, and to bettering the condition of the subjects of the Pope. You will read and give a copy of this despatch to Count Cavour—I am, &c.

Foreign Office, May 26, 1856.

CLARENCE.

THE CRIMEA.

THE Third Division has been broken up, and the Mediterranean squadron will soon be filled with regular troops. The 30th Regiment, 55th Regiment, 92nd Regiment, 89th Regiment, and 25th Regiment have embarked.

The weather had been very windy and very foggy. The departure of General della Marmora and the members of the Sardinian staff was a very early demonstration of the regard and esteem in which they are held by our army. The attempts to repair the Russian cemeteries have been tolerably successful, and the labours on those where lie our own dead were nearly brought to a close.

A general after-order had been read on parade, eulogizing the British army. The only comment made by the men as they retired from parade at the "dismiss" was, "Ah! it's all mighty, but they stopped our sixpence a day for all that." They are eminently of a practical turn in philosophy, and prefer solid pudding to empty praise any day.

There is yet a considerable quantity of Russian shot lying at Balaklava, but the piles are diminishing every day. Every one of them has been fired. The efforts of Colonel McMahon to dispose of the service mules, not included in the pick of the Land Transport Corps, promises to be attended with great success, and arrangements have been entered into to supply the trade and commerce of Asia Minor with Persia, India, Arabia, and the Russian provinces of Mingrelia and Georgia, with means of carriage, of which the war had deprived them.

AMERICAN CHIVALRY.

THE honourable, humane, pacific feeling which actuates some members of the American Senate—a feeling which is probably to be found in no other assembly of gentlemen in the world—is strikingly developed in a discussion which has taken place on Mr. Sumner. The New York papers say:—"Mr. Sumner was sitting unsuspectingly and busily at his desk when at a sudden Senator Brooks, who had adjourned early on the announcement of the death of Mr. M. Messrs. Brooks and Keitt approached him, each with a cane. Brooks walked in front of Sumner, and told him that he had read his speech twice, and that it was a libel on South Carolina and a relative of his, Judge Butler. When waiting for any reply, or asking for any explanation, he suddenly struck Mr. Sumner a violent blow over the head with his cane, while Mr. Sumner sat in his seat unable to extricate himself, cutting, by the blow, a gash four inches in length on his head. The cane was of gum arabia, an inch in diameter. Brooks followed this blow immediately with other blows, striking from twelve to twenty in all. Mr. Sumner had no distinct consciousness after the first blow. He voluntarily strove to rise from his seat, but, being fastened by his position, he lay on his desk from its fastening in the attempt to extricate himself. He staggered under the blows and fell senseless on the floor, being wholly stunned and blood from the first. Mr. Sumner is badly injured, having two very serious cuts on his head. His condition is considered critical, and his physician allows no one to see him. His clothes were literally covered with blood when he was removed. Considerable blood was also spattered on the adjoining desks."

This murderous attack became the subject of a warm but irregular discussion in the Senate on the 27th ult. While several senators excused Brooks, one individual named Toombs, declared that he entirely approved of the attack, and Mr. Butler, Brooks's colleague, maintained the same sentiment. Mr. Butler, however, seems to be in the habit of saying his things. Mr. Wilson remarked that Mr. Sumner had been stricken down by a brutal, murderous, cowardly assault, and was interrupted by Mr. Butler with the exclamation "You are a liar!" The conversation was summarily arrested by the admission of the Speaker. The House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts have passed, by a majority of 187 against 32, resolutions stigmatising the attack. But then Mr. Sumner is one of the Representatives of Massachusetts. We are better pleased to learn that the students and professors of Amherst College have burnt Brooks in effigy.

EMIGRATION STATISTICS.

THE interesting annual compilation, "The General Report of the Emigration Commissioners," in its issue for the current year, presents us with a comparative analysis of past and present emigration, which is eminently fertile of suggestions on the state of the labour-market and the prospects of the working classes in England. It appears from this summary that, since the year 1815, in which the great French war terminated, nearly 4,300,000 persons have left the United Kingdom for the United States and the British colonies. Of this number, more than 2,600,000, or over 61 per cent., have emigrated during the last ten years. For a succession of years, the annual efflux of population was a considerable one. In 1842, it slightly exceeded 129,000. In 1847, the Irish famine brought on the Irish exodus, which, in the eight years ending in 1854, has swelled the average of the annual emigration to 306,000 souls!

The following is a comparative statement of the numbers who have quitted the country during the last four years:—1852, 368,764; 1853, 329,937; 1854, 324,129; 1855, 176,807.

The above-quoted numbers represent the total emigration from our shores; the subjoined is a category of the Irish proportion for the last five years. There left Ireland, in 1851, 251,627; 1852, 224,997; 1853, 192,609; 1854, 150,209; 1855, 78,854.

We thus see that our emigration has been in a rapidly decreasing ratio for the last four years; and this decrease is more significant in the case of Ireland than of England; for the year 1852, which exhibits the maximum for England, exhibits a diminution on the part of Ireland as compared with the preceding year; and while the decrease in the general emigration in 1854 amounted to 12.25 per cent., and in 1855 to 52.05, the decrease in the Irish emigration amounted to 32.24 and 64.95 per cent., during the same periods. But this is not all. Not only have much fewer persons left the United Kingdom within the last two years, but a noticeable portion of those who have left seems to be returning. During the year 1855, not fewer than 28,831 persons, or 13 per cent. of the whole emigration of the year, returned home. Of these 18,402 came from America, and 4,419 from Australia. Of these the proportion of cabin to steerage passengers was, from Australia, 16 per cent., and from America, only 13 per cent. A proportion which the resources of the diggings and the antecedent position of mind, Australian emigrants might have led us to anticipate.

MISSING SHIPS.—Apprehensions are felt that the following vessels have foundered at sea, with all hands. The *Edmund* sailed from Gravesend on the 14th of last July, for Shanghai, and has not since been heard of; she had 105 hands. The *Australia*, 1,170 tons, left the Chincin Islands on the 27th of last October, with a cargo of guano, for Liverpool; her officers and crew numbered forty-five, and nothing has been heard of her. So of the *Gazelle*, which sailed on March last for Newfoundland; she was seen on the 9th of April off Cape Mary, she had on board 183 passengers, who, with the crew, have, it is believed, perished. Other ships given up as lost are the *Thalesia*, which left Calcutta for London on the 29th of October; the *Ocean Prince*, which sailed from Liverpool for Liverpool the 31st of last December; the *Mass from Calcutta for London*; the *Arundel* from the same port to London; the *Resource* from Shields to London; and the *Artistic*, from Swansea for Huelva.

INUNDATIONS IN HOLLAND.—From the Hague we hear:—"The accounts relating to the rise of our rivers are far from reassuring. The Rhine and the Waal have overflowed their banks, and the cultivated ground and the meadows have suffered extremely, and many hopes will be disappointed."

PROVINCIAL INTELLIGENCE.

DEATH FROM FEAR.—A little girl, walking along the streets of Accrington a day or two ago, carrying a basket of pears, her head struck her foot against an obstruction on the pavement, which caused her basket to fall forward, and she fell into the gutter. She was so much shocked at her fall, and the probability of a beating following her misfortune, that she fell down dead.

HYPOPHOSPHITES.—John Davis, a miner of Abercromby, South Wales, recently died of hydrophobia. He underwent dreadful suffering, begging his surgeons to let him have fair play, and not to administer him any more, as he could not be comforted. It was observed during the course of his illness that if he attempted to speak, or any one ventured to touch him, the paroxysms of the disease would come on. At length he began to foam at the mouth, and his arms and hands to turn black, and he ultimately sunk under the violence of his symptoms. He was bitten by a dog on the 24th ult.

WHOLESALE POISONING BY STRYCHNINE.—A wealthy young farmer, in a parish near Crediton, having in common with many of his neighbours suffered much from the ravages of rooks, which had done a great deal of mischief to his corn, as well as for grub, purchased a large quantity of strychnine, which having dissolved, he copied several bushels of it, not spring wheat in the liquid, and then sowed it on one of his fields, which in a few days was said to have been perfectly blackened with the dead bodies of the poor crows. Several bushels of them were collected.

COLONEL LAKE AND CAPTAIN THOMPSON AT HULL.—Two of the British officers who defended Kars, Lieutenant-Colonel Lake and Captain Thompson, arrived at Hull, on Saturday afternoon, by the Burlington steamship, from St. Petersburg. The news of their approach had gone before them, and great preparations had been made to give them a suitable welcome. Money was voted by the town council, a public entertainment was provided for them, and other arrangements were set on foot to dignify their reception. A flag waved from every window on Saturday, and it was quite a gala day. The eldersmen and councillors, in their robes, went in a steam-boat to meet the Burlington, and were introduced to Colonel Lake and Captain Thompson on board. When the vessel arrived at the pier, which was gallantly cheered by the hundreds of her distinguished passengers were greeted with hearty cheers by a very numerous assemblage. They were immediately escorted to the Victoria Hotel, where they sat down, with a large party of ladies and gentlemen, to an entertainment in their honour. The Mayor presided, and the company included many of the influential people of the town. After the repast, speeches in honour of the gallant guests were delivered amid acclamation, and replied to with modesty.

CONFESSION OF MURDER.—In 1852, an old woman, named Mary White, residing alone in the village of Milton, about five miles from Plymouth, was murdered in her bed, her throat being cut. At first suspicion fell on her grandson, who, with his father, lived in a mill adjoining the poor old woman's cottage; but after long inquiry, a man named Thomas Corber, a butcher, was committed on the charge of wilful murder. The grand jury at the Devon County Assizes, ignored the bill, and Corber was discharged, and has since returned to Milton, where he still resides. Last week, a rumour went abroad that a marine in the military prison, Devonport, had confessed to having taken part with Corber in the murder of Mary White. The man in question is named James Craze. His statement was to the effect, that he was about that time a slate dresser, residing at Tavistock, and made the acquaintance of Corber by his coming to the Tavistock market. The murder was planned between them, and took place, Craze leading the old woman while Corber cut her throat. They then divided the money the old lady possessed, the precise amount of which he did not recollect, but he believed it was nearly £50, and upon his half of which he lived until it was all spent, when he enlisted in the Artillery, from which he subsequently deserted and enlisted in the Marines. This statement was of course reported to the police authorities, who are investigating the matter.

DEATH BY A NEEDLE PUNCTURE AT BRISTOL.—We gave in our last some particulars of an extraordinary accident to an Irish labourer, named Patrick Haggarty, who while romping with a young woman, forced a needle which had been stuck in front of her gown so deeply into his chest as to render an operation for its extraction necessary. Up to Friday last Haggarty had gone on so well, that confident hopes of his recovery were entertained. In the course of the afternoon, however, severe symptoms of pneumonia set in, and increased so rapidly, that in the course of the following day the poor fellow died. A post-mortem examination showed that the needle had grazed the lung and occasioned mortal injury to that organ.

MORMON EMIGRATION FROM PRESTON.—The emigration of the inhabitants of this town, under the auspices of the Mormons, is very extensive. It is not unusual for husbands to return home at night and find wife, daughter, and children fled, the house stripped, and a pretty long list of debts incurred on the eve of departure. Tradesmen, too, in seeking after debtors, are astonished to find those who had promised to pay off to the land of promise. A hard case has recently come to light. A labouring man took his wages home on Saturday evening, and returned to his work, which detained him to a late hour. When he had finished his labour he again returned home, but found his wife and family had fled, and his home stripped. Subsequently, he ascertained that, instead of applying his wages to their proper use, they had run deeply in debt, and allowed the money to accumulate to assist them in their flight. They sailed from Liverpool on the 23rd ult., with a large number of others from various places, in the *Horizon*, bound for Boston.

FATAL STEAM BOILER EXPLOSIONS.—About eight o'clock, on Monday morning, the boiler of a stationary engine, used to draw coal wagons up an incline at the colliery of Messrs. Wharton and Sons, near Chesterfield, exploded. At the time mentioned, George Holmes, the engine tender, was in the engine-house, letting down a train of wagons, and another young man, named Josiah Cooke, was leaning against the engine-house door smoking a pipe. Cooke was found dead, and with his skull severely fractured, twenty yards from the engine-house; and Holmes was discovered in the debris at about a similar distance. He was sensible, although much injured, his face, indeed, being so disfigured that he was scarcely recognisable. The boiler was blown into a dozen pieces, three of the largest being found in the fields at a distance of 250 yards. The ends of the boiler were found in two fields 300 yards apart, and the sides were blown an equal distance. The rafters of the engine-house, bricks, &c., were blown into the adjoining field; and altogether a more complete destruction of a building never was seen. A second boiler explosion occurred at a paper mill at Malling. In this case the boiler was driven through three brick walls, the explosion throwing up a shower of red-hot cinders, which set fire to a cattle-shed, a "hop-ost," and other buildings. Three men who were in the engine-house at the time of the explosion were killed. Two were hurled into the air to a distance of 300 yards, passing over several houses and an orchard.

DEATH OF AN OFFICER AT A REVIEW.—On Friday week, during the inspection of the West Kent Yeomanry Cavalry, at Maidstone, Lieutenant Albert was observed to turn his horse slowly towards a clump of trees at the edge of the review ground, but, before reaching this place, he tottered. With assistance he dismounted; and it was plain, by the pallor of his countenance, that he had been attacked with serious illness. The surgeon of the regiment immediately galloped to the spot where Lieutenant Albert was lying, but found that life was extinct. Deceased had passed fifty years of his life in the British service, and at the moment of his death bore on his breast a Waterloo medal and a Peninsular medal, bearing also clasps for Toulouse, Orthes, Vittoria, and Salamanca. He was regimental sergeant-major of the 15th Hussars during the whole of the Peninsular war.

HEROIC WOMEN.—Two men and two boys were lately conveying some goods in a boat from Uyen Sound to Westing. When between Agness and the Ness of Cullavoe, the vessel became unmanageable through the force of the eddy tide, and, after making a few circuitous voyages, overset. Two of the crew were drowned, but the other two were enabled to keep themselves, with a great effort, above water, by clinging to the boat till they obtained assistance. This assistance was afforded by two women, Grace Tait and Ellen Petrie, who, perceiving the catastrophe from Agness, and that there was a possibility of saving the two who were struggling for life, put to sea, along with an old man, Grace's father, and rescued the boatmen from death.

GERMAN "MERCENARIES."—On the 3rd inst. a soldier of the Herefordshire Militia was on the point of being drowned, in the neighbourhood of the camp at Aldershot. A soldier of the 2nd Jäger Corps, seeing his danger, jumped in, and, though nearly lost himself, rescued him from death. The rescued man sent his saviour, through the captain of his company, the sum of 10s. The German soldier, since made full corporal for his gallant conduct, wished his comrades to accept the same. The company refused to a man, and voted that the sum should be sent to the secretary of the Wellington College, at the foundation of which they had been present on the preceding day.

MORTAR EXPERIMENTS.—Important experiments have been made during the past week with a 13-inch mortar, under the directions of a party of the Royal Marine Artillery Corps, at Fort Cumberland, one of the outposts of Portsmouth. The object of the trial was to test the utility of a peculiar contrivance for the purpose of preventing the mortar becoming heated and damaged by any lengthened firing as was the case at Swaborg. At one day's trial 500 shells were discharged, the time occupied being nine hours, giving two minutes only as the average of each round. On another trial 150 shells were fired in equally rapid time, and 30 more are still to be experimented with. The mortar subjected to this severe test received no material injury from the fusion or cracking of the metal; the contrivance is, therefore, so far, highly successful in its action.

THE INHABITANTS OF RAMSGATE, of which place Colonel Lake is a native, have resolved to present that gallant officer with a sword of the value of 100 guineas for his distinguished services at Kars.

MANUFACTURING STATISTICS.—In England and Scotland generally, the weekly consumption of cotton is not under 31,500 bales. There are spun 50,000,000 miles of yarn per day, a length sufficient to encircle the globe two thousand times; and there are woven by 250,000 power looms 3,551 miles of cloth per day, equal to the distance between Liverpool and New York, or forming an annual produce of cloth that would extend over a surface in a direct line of 1,000,000 miles.—The Builder.

OBITUARY.

CAREW, LORD.—On the 2nd inst., at Castleborough, county of Wexford, aged 69, died Robert Shapland Carew, first Lord Carew in the Peerage of both England and Ireland. The representative of an Irish branch of the ancient and extensive family of Carew of Devonshire and Cornwall, he succeeded at an early age to his father's property in the county of Wexford, of which he became a magistrate and a petty lieutenant, as well as a representative in Parliament for more than thirty years prior to his elevation to the Irish Peerage in 1841, and to that of the United Kingdom in 1878, at her Majesty's Coronation. His lordship was also a Knight of St. Patrick, and was named Lord Carew, in honour of his native county, by King William IV., on the first anniversary of that gentleman's death. It is almost needless to add that as a Liberal, he supported the repeal of the Test Act, and Catholic Emancipation. In 1846 he married Jane Catharine, daughter of Major Anthony Cliffe of Bellevue, by whom he had two sons, and also two daughters, one of whom is married to C. P. de la Roche, Esq., of Pithou, Cornwall, and the other to J. Davis Gillett, Esq., of Trebuck, in the same county. He is succeeded in the English and Irish titles by his eldest son, Robert, now a second Lord Carew, who represented the county of Wexford in the Liberal interest from 1846 till the dissolution in 1874. His Lordship is married to a daughter of Sir G. R. Phillips Bart., of Weston, Warwickshire, and sister of the Viscountess Duncan and the Countess of Cathness.

ANSON, HON. W. L.—On the 3rd inst., on board her Majesty's steamer *Tartar*, at sea, off the south coast of England, he, being Plymouth and Portsmouth, died Lieutenant Colonel William Victor Leopold Anson, R.N., second son of the late Earl of Lichfield, and next brother of the present Earl, to whose title also he was heir presumptive until the birth of Lord Anson in January last. He was born August 1, 1833, and consequently was only in his 33rd year. He obtained his lieutenancy in September, 1853. He died unmarried.

HERVEY, LADY E.—On the 1st inst., after a few days' illness, from an attack of malignant fever, died the Lady Elizabeth Hervey, the eldest daughter of the Earl and the late Lady Katharine Jermy.

CRICHTON, SIR ALEXANDER, M.D.—A few days since, at the Grove, near Sevenoaks, aged 93, died Sir Alexander Crichton, M.D., F.R.S., and member of several foreign learned societies. He was formerly physician to the household of the late Duke of Cambridge and of the Emperor Alexander I. of Russia, and bore several foreign orders both of that country and Prussia. He was knighted by George IV. in 1821. He represented an ancient family, long settled in Midlothian.

CARR, SIR WILLIAM.—On the 24th of April, at Ceylon, aged 53, died Sir William Glegg Carr, late Chief Justice of that island. He was admitted a barrister of Gray's Inn in 1826. About 1830, he went out to Ceylon as King's advocate, and was subsequently promoted, first to the post of a puisne judge, in 1839, and ultimately to that of Chief Justice in 1854, when he received the honour of knighthood.

GLOUCESTER AND BRISTOL, BISHOP OF.—Dr. James Henry Monk, Lord Bishop of Gloucester and Bristol, died on the 6th inst. at Stapleton Palace. His health had long been failing, and his latter years had been spent in partial blindness. He was the son of Mr. Charles Monk, of the 49th Foot, and was educated at Charter House, and Trinity College, Cambridge. Here he took the degree of B.A. in 1804, as seventh wrangler, the senior wrangler of the year being the late Bishop Kaye of Lincoln. In 1808, he succeeded Dr. Porson as professor of Greek in the University, and became tutor of his College. In his capacity of tutor, he was so successful that in ten years more than half of the highest honours in the public examinations were carried off by his pupils, and at one time all the nine individuals engaged in the tuition of Trinity College called themselves his disciples. He edited the "Museum Criticum," in conjunction with Bishop Blomfield, and carried on a long controversy with Sir James Smith, when the latter wished to become a candidate for the botany professorship at Cambridge, notwithstanding his repugnance to sign the Thirty-nine Articles. For his services to the Church on this occasion, and his sound classical scholarship, as shown in his edition of the "Alcibiades" and "Hippolytus" of Euripides, he was promoted by Lord Liverpool to the deanery of Peterborough in 1822, and eight years later obtained from the Duke of Wellington a prebendal stall at Westminster, and the Bishopric of Gloucester. To this see, in 1838, was added or rather joined, the see of Bristol, in accordance with the recommendation of the Ecclesiastical Commissioners, of whom it may be observed in passing, Dr. Monk was one. As a bishop, Dr. Monk did little to distinguish himself either in or out of the House of Lords. In politics he was a moderate Tory, or rather a Conservative; in religious views a safe and cautious High Churchman, though opposed to the Oxford school. In his own diocese he was beloved for his liberality and generosity. In the literary world he was best known as the author of the "Life of Bentley," published about twenty-five years ago.

THE CHARITY CHILDREN AT ST. PAUL'S.—We have scarcely any national festivals left, and this is a small approximation to one. The fifty-six parishes brought under the glorious dome of St. Paul's have for the moment the feeling of unity. The despised charity boy, for the day, is somebody. Policemen tend him carefully, and thrust aside the noble and the rich that he may reach his place in comfort. He has had the current of commerce of the greatest commercial city in the world stopped that he may pass in quiet. The Lord Mayor of London—the greatest dignitary in the world, in his yes—comes to visit him, accompanied by hosts of dignified satellites. With regard to the spectators, it will be confessed by all who have witnessed the congregation of the children under the dome of St. Paul's, that it is a spectacle which verges on the sublime, and that the volume of sounds peeling in unison has an effect which harmony could scarcely produce. The ceremony of Thursday week differed in no material degree from any similar one which preceded it. The children and visitors entered the Cathedral at the usual periods, between ten and twelve. About 4,000 children, from fifty-six schools, and 8,000 visitors, were present. The service commenced by the singing of the 100th Psalm, in which all the children joined. At the end of each of the Psalms for the day the children joined in the Gloria Patri. Before the prayer for the Queen, the Coronation Anthem was sung. The words are as follows:—"Z-dok, the priest, and Nathan, the prophet, anointed Solomon King. And all the people rejoiced, and said:—God save the king, long live the king, God save the king, may the king live for ever, amen, amen, hallelujah, hallelujah, amen." The children joined in the words following:—"Rejoiced and said." The effect was very startling. Before the sermon, were sung three verses of the 113th Psalm, with a hallelujah chorus by the children. Then came the sermon by the Bishop of Lincoln. After the sermon part of the 104th Psalm and the hallelujah chorus were sung. The receipts were £167 16s. 9d. As those in 1855 were £293 9s., the associated charities will receive £74 more than was the case last year.

NEW NATIONAL GALLERY BILL.—A bill, prepared by the Chancellor of the Exchequer and Mr. Wilson, provides a site for a new National Gallery, and after a lengthy preamble, empowers the Lords of the Treasury to select and mark out such part of the land purchased by the Exhibition Commissioners, at Kensington Gore, as may appear suitable for the purpose of the site of a new National Gallery, with proper surrounding or adjoining space and approaches.

SATURDAY HALF-HOLIDAY AT THE POST-OFFICE.—The Postmaster-General having decided to grant a half-holiday on Saturday to the officers of the General Post Office, the several offices which are not immediately connected with the receipt and delivery of the mails, will, in future, be closed at one o'clock on Saturday afternoon. The money-order offices in St. Martin's-le-Grand, and Sherborne Lane will be closed at the same hour.

FIRE IN SOUTHWARK.—On Saturday last, the premises of Messrs. Norton, Hayter, and Co., patent wood manufacturers, of Holland Street, Blackfriars Road, were nearly consumed. Machinery, &c., to the value of about £4,000, was destroyed, and the large glass works of Messrs. Aspley Pellat and Co., and other premises in the vicinity, were much injured. No cause can be assigned for the origin of the fire. The contents and machinery were insured in the Anchor Fire Office, and the building in the North of England.

SALE OF TURNER'S DRAWINGS.—The collection of drawings by Turner, and prints, the property of John Dillon, Esq., was sold on Saturday by Messrs. Foster, at Pall Mall. The ten drawings by Turner, sold as follows:—"Llanrwst," size 15½ in. by 11 in., 260 guineas; "Saumur," and "Nantes," 16½ in. by 11 in. respectively, 195 guineas and 170 guineas; "Plymouth, with the effect of Rainbow," 9 in. by 6 in., 115 guineas; "Florence," 7 in. by 5 in., 100 guineas; "Junction of the Grèta and Tees," 16 in. by 11 in., 190 guineas; "Old London Bridge," 15 in. by 11 in., 245 guineas; "Nazareth," 8 in. by 5 in., 126 guineas; the "Pyramids of Egypt," 8 in. by 5 in., 87 guineas; "Mount St. Bernard," a sketch, 45 guineas.

ART EXHIBITION IN MANCHESTER.—The proposal to hold a great Art Exhibition in Manchester, has now taken a shape from which we may reasonably hope for its success. Prince Albert has accepted a kind of provisional patronage of the design; to be exchanged, by and by, we cannot doubt, for a more formal connexion as patron or president—a fact of immense importance to the local committee, as borrowers of pictures, statues, and works in gold and silver. A large guarantee fund has been already secured, and this fund it is proposed to carry up to £100,000.

TESTIMONIAL TO SIR ROBERT M'CLEAVE.—An elegant and costly testimonial has just been presented to Capt. Sir Robert M'Cleave, by a number of officers of the Royal Navy. The testimonial consists of a winged figure of Fame, standing on top of the part of a globe representing the Polar Sea, and in the act of blowing a trumpet. It is exquisitely carved in frosted silver.

AMONG THE SUPPOSED "PORTRAITS" of Palmer, hawked about London streets during the trial, was one which twelve years ago did duty as a portrait of Cobden.

LAMARTINE.—A Paris journal asserts that M. de Lamartine's long struggle to preserve his estate from sale by auction by his creditors—a struggle which has caused him incessant literary labour for years—has ended in failure; and that he, in consequence, a ruined and broken-hearted man, has resolved on emigrating to the United States of America.

THE INUNDATIONS IN FRANCE.

THE more we learn of the inundations which have desolated half of the most important agricultural districts of France, the more terrible they appear. In the neighbourhood of Lyons, scenes of the most distressing description are revealed at every step: ruins of houses which have partly fallen to heaps of broken furniture—drowned cattle and other animals which add to the ghastly scene of desolation by their finished appearance, and the cries of hunger. Here and there—more frequently, indeed, than the phrase "here and there" expresses—a house may be seen with one side fallen, too painfully revealing household secrets. There is the silent room, rickety already; and there the snow-white bed-curtains buffeted hither and thither by the rudest winds, or saturated with the rain, and hanging with an air impossibly forlorn; while a hungry cat sits perched on a table, looking at the watery streets in despair for her nine lives.

The unfortunate sufferers themselves have not prevailed on to desert the spot, but live on at the nearest practicable point, and, as the waters retire, seek among the ruins some remnant of their property. Numbers of poor wretches may be seen watching with eager eyes for the retirement of the water, in hope that they may again get possession of the looms by which their daily bread is won. These searches for property are not, however, made without danger, for scarcely a moment passes unmarked by the sound of some falling roof or wall. The streets, as they become clear of the water, are transformed into regular *entrepôts*, where piles of furniture are collected. On every side may be seen fires, at which some poor, drenched, and half-naked people endeavour to cook such small provision against hunger as they can command.

At the *mairie* of the Guillotière, and at a number of other places in the city (we speak of a time when the floods have done their worst), a distribution of food and money is regularly made. Indeed, it is impossible to describe the zeal which has been displayed by the authorities and by the inhabitants in rendering assistance. Hundreds of persons are seen carrying provisions of every kind to the churches, which have been thrown open for the reception of the houseless sufferers; and a committee has been formed to send carts round and collect old clothes and small articles of furniture, of which the poor families stand in need.

The calm resignation imprinted on the countenances of all one meets is something wonderful. Women are seen huddled together with their children, but not a sob nor a sigh escapes them; and among those who are engaged in seeking for their property, everything goes on with a dull quiet altogether removed from every notion of dispute or quarrelling. And yet the Lyons journals are filled with descriptions of casualties and hair-breadth escapes of the inhabitants of the inundated quarters. A boat containing six soldiers capsized in the *Plaine du Grand Camp*, and three of the men were unfortunately drowned. A man residing at La Part Dieu, whose house fell down and buried his young wife, to whom he had been but recently married, threw himself in despair into the Rhone. A woman living on the Quay d'Albret, who saw her husband drowned while rendering assistance to some sufferers, threw herself out of a window on the fourth storey, and was killed on the spot. A young woman, who had been confined two days before, was taken out of her bed with her child, and conveyed in a boat to a place of safety. A woman, holding a young child in her arms, was seen on the roof of a house crying for assistance, and a boat was speedily directed towards the spot. The boat had just arrived as the house began to give way; the mother threw her child into the arms of one of the boatmen, and in a moment after sank herself with the ruins. Three children were found buried beneath the ruins of one house after the waters had retired.

Almost all the large workshops near the banks of the Rhone have been destroyed, and the loss in machinery and merchandise will be enormous. Of all the pretty villas in the banlieue, belonging to the more respectable persons in business, scarcely one remains without serious damage, while as for the gardens, they are all washed out. The Faubourg of the Charpenes, the great rendezvous on Sunday of the holiday-seeking citizens, is now nothing but a heap of ruins, and scarcely one-third of it exists. One of the localities in the neighbourhood of Lyons which has the most suffered from the inundation is the Cité Napoleon, the fine avenue of which, only a short time ago skirted by delightful country-houses, is now dreadfully devastated. More than nine-tenths of the buildings have suffered most materially. Villages have altogether disappeared in the waters; the houses can hardly be said to have fallen down, they rather melted away. Along the low delta formed by the Rhone the houses are built of earth, raised on about two feet of stone, and they actually dissolved amid the waters.

The embankment which unites the bridge over the *Lèze* to the viaduct of the railway on the right bank, near Valence, broke through, and the water rushed like a torrent over the surrounding country. A farm-house which stood near was soon flooded up to the first floor. Some persons put off in two boats to rescue the inhabitants, and reached the house with considerable difficulty. They took on board a little child and its nurse, but the farmer and his wife obstinately refused to quit, and all the persons could do was to leave them one of the boats, that they might leave the house if the water continued to rise. From Valence to Viviers all the communications have been cut off. All the inhabitants of the lower part of the town of Valence have left their houses.

The village of La Palud, on the confines of the Drôme and of Vaucluse, has been entirely carried away by the waters of the Rhone. One hundred and fifty houses have been thrown down, the furniture and the cattle which were in the stables and in the fields washed away by the torrent, and the unfortunate inhabitants only able to save themselves with difficulty.

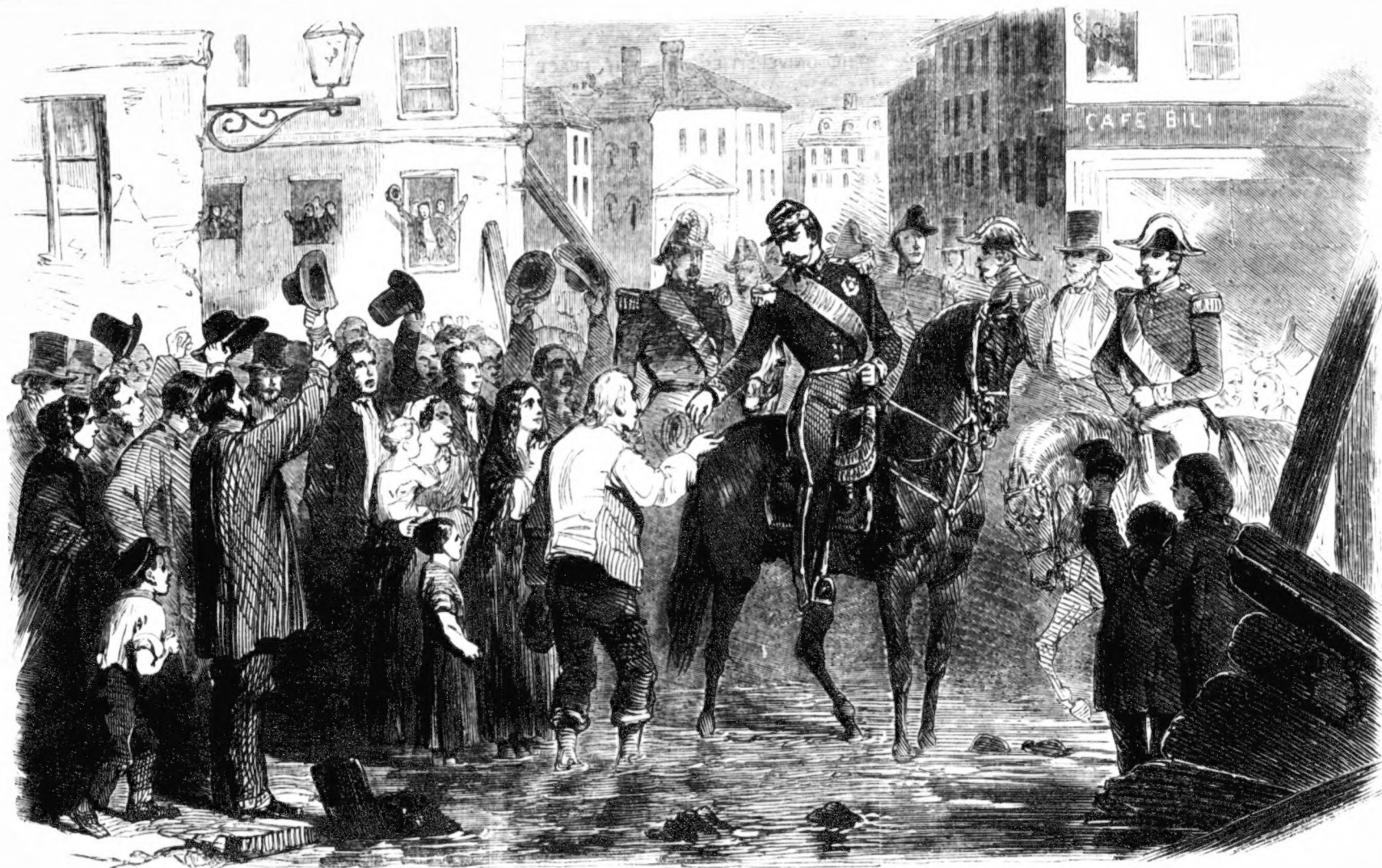
In the valley of the *Isère*, both above and below Grenoble, from the frontiers of Savoy to the Drôme, large breaches have been made in the dykes, and the rich and extensive plain of Graisivaudan with its abundant crops was in a moment transformed into a lake. The dykes at Fouvet, Crolles, Tignes, and Domene also gave way, and all the surrounding country was under water. The situation of the inhabitants of Vallabregues is most deplorable. The only part of the place which is not inundated is the cemetery, and there the people who have been driven from their homes are congregated under what shelter they can manage to erect for themselves, and getting a feeble supply of provisions by means of boats from the neighbouring places.

Tarascon is principally supplied with bread from Nîmes, where the bakers are constantly at work. The bread they make is placed under the vestibule of the Hotel de Ville, and is conveyed away by the railway trains, which have not been compelled to stop running between Nîmes, Arles, and Marseilles. Between Nîmes and Avignon the case is different. The torrents of the *Isère* have completely destroyed the railway to the extent of upwards of two miles, and it has also broken through on different points in the departments of the Drôme and the Ardèche.

In Orleans, thirty-seven houses have now (June 6) fallen, and many others are in a dangerous state. Several lives have been lost. The news from Tours and Amboise is still more appalling. The city of Tours is almost all under water. Boats ply regularly in the High Street. The inmates of the Hotel de l'Univers were let down into boats from the upper windows, by sheets tied together. The office of the "Journal de l'Indre et Loire" is inundated, and the paper failed to appear. The railway is completely destroyed. The devastation is equally great at Amboise.

The neighbourhood of Angers is that most lately visited by the floods. A long string of telegraphic despatches calling for assistance reached the Parisians on the 6th, and the village of Trelarge was surrounded and completely flooded, the people saving themselves in boats; the waters then rushing through the slate quarries toward Angers. Immense efforts were made to save the quarries, but all without effect. Some of the principal quarries are utterly destroyed. Local letters say that upwards of 10,000 men, women, and children are by this catastrophe thrown out of work, and not only so, but they are without house or home, and too probably without bread. It was to Angers that the Emperor made his second visit of condolence.

So much misery as these inundations have caused could hardly have failed of exciting the generous feeling of the nation. Subscriptions are everywhere afloat, the Empress giving 20,000fr. in her own name, and 10,000fr. in the name of the Imperial Prince. The Ministers of State and of the Emperor's household, of Justice, of Foreign Affairs, of the Interior, of Finance, of War, of the Navy and Colonies, of Public Instruction and Worship, of Agriculture, Trade and Public Works, and the President of



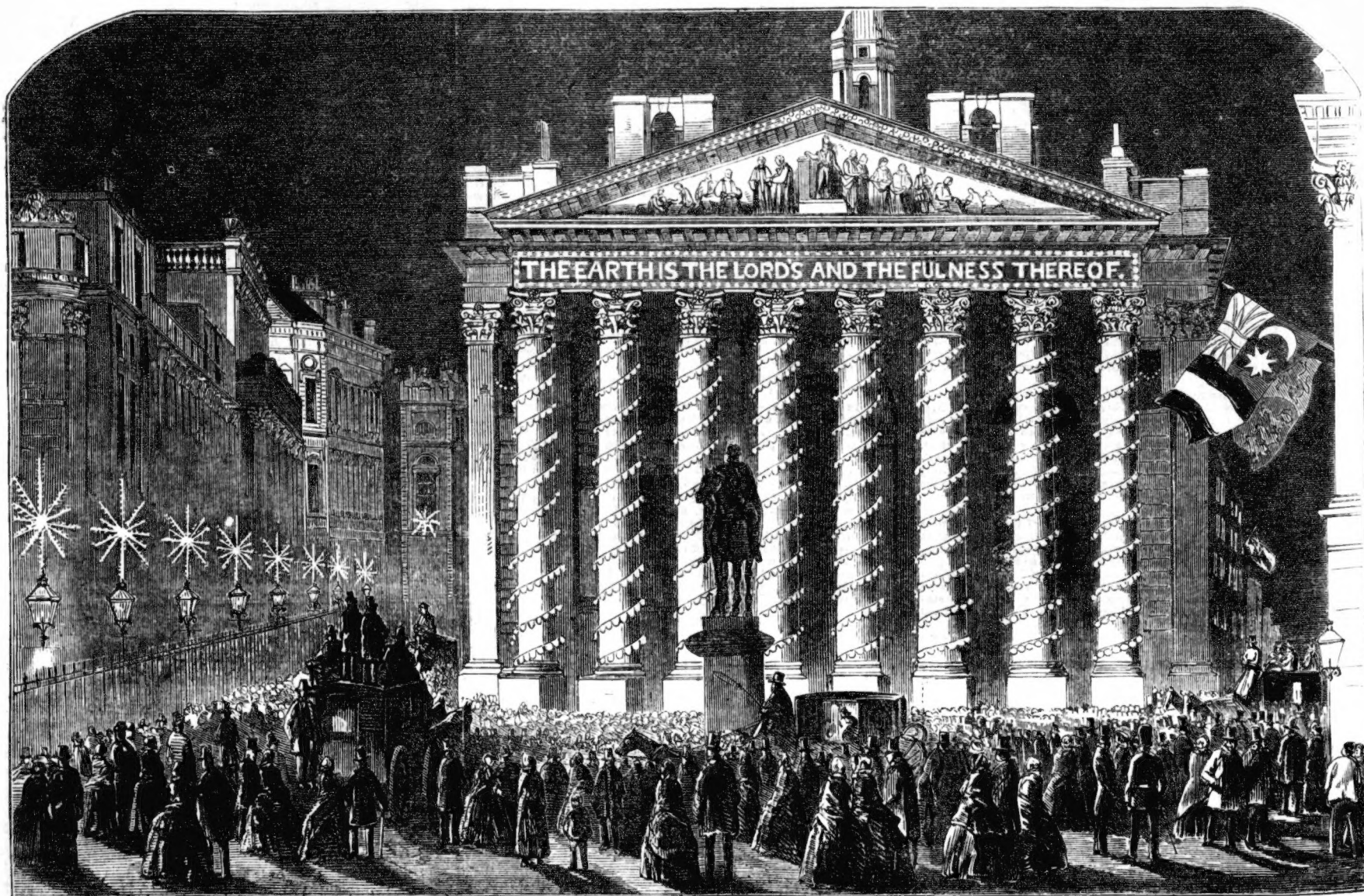
THE EMPEROR OF THE FRENCH DISTRIBUTING ALMS TO THE SUFFERERS BY THE LYONS INUNDATIONS.

the Council of State, have each subscribed 1,000*fr.* A subscription list is opened by the Legislative Corps, to which Count de Morny, the President, is a contributor of 5,000*fr.* At Lyons, the sum subscribed, including 100,000*fr.* given by the Emperor, amounts to somewhat over 182,000*fr.* General the Marquis de Lèvestine has authorised the opening of a subscription among the National Guards of the Seine, and some of the Paris theatres have given extraordinary representations in aid of the relief fund. The Government has decided on creating a central committee of succour, for the purpose of giving one sole and uniform direction to the produce yielded by the public subscriptions, both in Paris and the departments.

The Emperor himself, however, has been the great benefactor, and his

conduct in the matter has excited an enthusiasm in the desolated provinces. Not content with giving assistance afar off, he personally visited the scene of the disasters, and gave his time and thoughts to their alleviation. It is even said that, albeit not used to the melting mood, the Emperor wept when he beheld the devastation before him. This was in his return from the Charpenne, where nearly three fourths of the district had been completely destroyed. The Emperor, pale with emotion, and with tears in his eyes, approached a group huddled round the remnants of their furniture, and calling to him more particularly the poor women surrounded by their weeping children, distributed to each of them, from a bag which hung at the saddle-bow, money to provide for their first and more urgent wants,

and accompanied with a promise of further means of alleviation. Sometimes in a boat, but more frequently on horseback, the Emperor passed from place to place, giving advice and assistance, and receiving grateful acclamations in return everywhere. The impression made upon his mind by the scenes he witnessed in the course of this tour of consolation may be seen from the fact, that within an hour of his return to Paris, he assembled a council of Ministers, and demanded a sum of 10,000,000*fr.* for the unfortunate victims, in addition to the 2,000,000*fr.* already granted, and the sums distributed for the more pressing necessities from the privy purse. It is to be hoped that, in addition to these efforts to alleviate the misery already caused, a way will be found to prevent it for the future.



THE ILLUMINATION OF THE ROYAL EXCHANGE.

THE ROYAL EXCHANGE ILLUMINATED.

CITY taste is not often quoted as admirable, but among all the devices or illumination with which we were treated on the 29th of May, not many were equal to that exhibited at the Royal Exchange. There had been some talk, we believe, of classic vases, to glow with classically burning fire, in and about this edifice, and we think it quite as well that they were not attempted. Classic designs are often much more admirable in the abstract than in execution, and when applied to modern purposes. But the illuminations at the Exchange were really very effective, and possessed a certain chastity of appearance which the daubed hoardings exhibited on some other of our public buildings certainly did not pretend to. The spiral cordon of jets round the pillars, and the fiery motto just below the frieze, had this desirable effect, that they threw up the outlines of the building, so that you saw, not a mass of illumination merely, but a building

illuminated. This, we presume to suggest, is really the end to be aimed at in all such cases.

THE UNIVERSITIES AND THE PEACE.

DEPUTATION TO THE QUEEN FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE.

WHILE the King of Prussia—who, by-the-bye, has no fancy for real war—is diverting his Imperial guest, the Czar Alexander, with military spectacles, those Royal personages privileged to be visitors at the Court of England, have an opportunity of witnessing a scene much more agreeable and much more auspicious—namely, that of a great, free, and enlightened nation, which never shrinks from war in a good and righteous cause, celebrating, in a variety of ways, and with something like real enthusiasm, that

restoration of peace which has imparted feelings of joy to so many hearts, and of hope and anticipation to so many domestic circles. Such, at least, was the case one day last week, when the Queen in regal state, at Buckingham Palace, with her crown upon her brow, and her courtiers by her side, received the loyal addresses of those ancient, illustrious, and venerable seats of learning, the University of Oxford and the University of Cambridge. We will endeavour to describe, however faintly, the scene then enacted, and which was impressive on account of the importance of the occasion, as well as the rank, the fame, and the learning of those who took part in it.

It is about three o'clock, on the 4th inst., and the Queen is seated on her throne, wearing a magnificent diadem of diamonds. The Duchess of Sutherland is on her Majesty's right hand, and the Marquis of Breadalbane, as Lord Chamberlain of the Royal Household; while, on the left of



THE ADDRESSES FROM THE UNIVERSITIES CONGRATULATING HER MAJESTY UPON THE PEACE—THE PRINCE CHANCELLOR AND DEPUTATION FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE.

the throne, stand Prince Albert, and with him a rather good-looking young man, about the middle height, slightly but well formed, and with a pleasing, intelligent expression of countenance, who is at once recognised as Frederick William, the Prince Royal of Prussia. The guard of gentlemen-at-arms line the throne-room; the doors are thrown open; and a formal deputation from the University of Cambridge appears. The delegates, followed by the members, and headed by the Earl of Derby, wearing his gold robe of office as Chancellor of the University, and having his train borne by one of the members, have arrived at a quarter before the hour. The deputation have been conducted to the green drawing-room, and are now brought by the Gentlemen Ushers-in-Waiting to the presence of the Sovereign.

The Chancellor, the Vice-Chancellor, the Delegates, and other Members of the University, advance to the Throne, when the Earl of Derby, who,

as our readers will remember, was elected as the Duke of Wellington's successor, reads an address from the University to the Queen, and her Majesty returns a gracious answer. Among the Members of the University who accompany him, Earl Delawarr, Earl Stanhope, the Bishop of St. Asaph, the Bishop of Oxford, the Right Hon. W. E. Gladstone, are conspicuous.

THE CAMBRIDGE ADDRESS.

While Lord Derby is reading the Oxford address, in that "clear, Saxon, silver style," which characterises the elocution of the haughtiest and most intellectual of England's patricians, a deputation from the University of Cambridge, headed by the Vice-Chancellor, the Rev. Dr. Whewell, arrive in procession, and are conducted to the Promenade Gallery. From that place they are summoned, immediately after the reception of the Oxford address, by Prince Albert, who wears his state robes as Chancellor of the

University, the train being borne by one of the Gentlemen of his Household.

The deputation pass through the Picture Gallery and Green Drawing-Room to the Throne-Room, and are then, with much ceremony, ushered to the presence of the Queen.

The Prince, as Chancellor, reads the address from the University of Cambridge, congratulating her Majesty on the peace, and afterwards presents the address to the Queen, and her Majesty returns a most gracious answer. It is to this scene that our engraving relates.

An address of congratulation on the conclusion of peace was presented by the body of Presbyterian ministers in and about London and Westminster. The address was read by the Rev. Thomas Madge, who had the honour of kissing hands.

Imperial Parliament.

FRIDAY, JUNE 6.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

CAPITAL PUNISHMENT.

Lord ST. LEONARDS asked if it was the intention of the Government to abolish the punishment of death in all cases of murder by women. In two instances women who had committed a serious murder had been reprieved, without any apparent reason for such clemency. If it was intended never to carry the sentence of the law into effect on women, because their execution might be revolting to the public, it ought to be stated; but he thought it would amount to an abrogation of the law of the land that would produce the most fatal consequences.

Lord GRANVILLE said it was not the intention of the Government to propose any change in the law, nor did it intend in all such cases to extend the mercy of the Crown to criminals.

Lord CAMPBELL had no doubt that in the cases specified extenuating circumstances had been discovered, but he was glad to hear that the law was to be maintained, and to lay down a rule that no women were to be executed, however atrocious their guilt, would lead to very fatal results.

APPELLATE JURISDICTION BILL.

On the motion for the third reading of the Peers' Appellate Jurisdiction Bill, Lord GRANVILLE notified to the House the assent of the Crown to the introduction of the measure.

The Earl of CLANCAREE opposed the bill.

Lord OSMAN moved that it be read a third time that day six months.

The Earl of DERRY defended the measure. He explained the defects in the legal procedure of the House that rendered the bill necessary, approved the creation of two legal peers for life, with a salary for discharging the specific duties required of them, and stated he should see the bill rejected by either House of Parliament with great regret.

The Marquis of CLANCAREE said the bill limited the right of the Crown to create life peers; and for the first time granted payment to peers for discharging parliamentary functions—a principle which, if adopted, would lower the character of the House. He hoped the bill would not pass.

Lord GRANVILLE denied that the remuneration of the Deputy-Speakers for a distinct duty was an innovation. The Lord Chancellor, the Chairman of the Committees in that House, and the Speaker of the House of Commons, were all paid for discharging parliamentary duties of the highest importance.

The Earl of WICKLOW should not vote against the bill; but he regretted the Government had, by introducing it, given to a resolution of the House the force of law.

Their Lordships then divided, when there appeared a majority of 40 for the third reading.

The bill was then read a third time and passed.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

THE CENTRAL AMERICAN QUESTION.

Sir E. B. LYTON inquired whether any steps had been taken, on the part of her Majesty's Government, within the last three weeks, to obtain a reply from that of the United States to the proposal for an arbitration on the question respecting Central America.

Lord PALMERSTON said he was unable to give an answer to that particular question; but they were fully aware that the offer had been made. With regard to certain preliminary remarks which had fallen from Sir E. Lyton, he added that, in the present state of things, he thought the prospect of a permanent maintenance of amicable relations between this country and the United States would be promoted by the judicious forbearance which had been already shown by Sir Edward upon this subject. He sincerely hoped, he said, and not without good reason, that there might be no interruption of the peaceful relations between the two countries; but a discussion in that House must produce contrary opinions the expression of which could not but be attended with injurious results. With reference to what he had said on Thursday, that the Government knew indirectly of the departure of Mr. Crampton from Washington, a packet had since arrived, which did not bring any confirmation of the report.

CIVIL SERVICE ESTIMATES—THE ARTS.

The House then went into committee of supply upon the remaining civil service estimates.

Among other votes which gave rise to much debate was one of £2,000 towards a British Historical Portrait Gallery, to carry into effect a measure contemplated in an address to the House of Lords—namely, the formation of a gallery of portraits of the most eminent persons in British history. The vote was opposed by Mr. Spooner, but, upon a division, it was carried by 97 to 28.

Another vote which led to a somewhat protracted discussion was one of £10,000 to defray the cost of removing the science and art branch of the Educational Department of the Council Office from Marlborough House to Kensington Gore. The vote was, however, agreed to without a division.

ST. JAMES'S IMPROVEMENTS.

On the vote for £24,700, for a new road from Pall Mall to Buckingham Gate being brought forward, the plan of improvement met with considerable discussion. Several members, Sir J. Pakington among the number, dissented from the plan, and, on a division, the vote was negatived by a very large majority—192 to 70.

Other votes having been agreed to, the Chairman was ordered to report the resolutions.

"WINDING UP" ACT.

Mr. MALINS, in moving the second reading of the Joint-Stock Companies' Winding-up Acts Amendment Bill, brought from the House of Lords, explained its object, which was, he said, to remedy a defect in the act of 1848, in saying that it was designed, as had been supposed by some, to give protection to the shareholders of the Fugitive Bank. By the existing law, a single creditor could obtain an advantage over the great body of creditors, and might lay hold of any shareholder of a joint-stock bank, and the primary object of the bill was to provide for the election of a representative of the creditors, who should be empowered to make arrangements and compromises on their part with the shareholders, as an assignee in bankruptcy.

Mr. S. FITZGERALD moved to defer the second reading for six months, and, after some further discussion, the debate was adjourned.

MONDAY, JUNE 9.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

THE FOREIGN LEGION.

In answer to a question from Lord Donoughmore, Lord PANMURE said that the foreign legions, when disembodied, were to be sent to their homes, or to be located in some British colony at the expense of the Government.

MR. CRAMPTON.

After a conversation as to the expediency of separating the sees of Gloucester and Bristol,

Lord GRANVILLE explained, in reply to Lord Carnarvon, that the Government were in possession of no further information on the state of affairs in the United States. Letters were, however, expected from Mr. Crampton in the course of the night.

The Mercantile Law Amendment Bill was reported with amendments, after a protest from Lord Overstone against the repeal of the 17th section of the Statute of Frauds, so far as it regarded personal property.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

MR. CRAMPTON.

Lord PALMERSTON, in reply to Mr. Disraeli, said he had received no further information respecting the reported departure of the British Minister from Washington.

OATH OF ABJURATION BILL.

The Oath of Abjuration Bill having been read a third time,

Sir F. THESIGER, making, as he said, one more effort to arrest a step which, according to his view, would be attended with most serious consequences, moved, by way of amendment, to substitute for the form of oath to be taken in lieu of the oath of abjuration and assurance another form, which, after binding the party taking the oath truly and sincerely to acknowledge and declare in his conscience, that Queen Victoria is lawful and rightful Queen of this realm, and of all other her dominions and countries therein or belonging, &c., proceeds—"And all these things I do plainly and sincerely acknowledge and swear according to these express words by me spoken, and according to the plain and common sense understanding of the same words, without any equivocation, mental evasion, or secret reservation whatsoever; and I do make this recognition, acknowledgment, and promise heartily, willingly, and truly, upon the true faith of a Christian. So help me God." In support of his motion, he reiterated some of his former arguments, founded upon the declared views of Roman Catholic authorities regarding the title of her Majesty, and insisted that, apart from the question of admitting Jews to the Legislature—which should, he said, be made a distinct question—the words, "upon the true faith of a Christian," should be retained in the oath, in order that it should be thoroughly understood that there was no avenue to the House to one not professing to be a Christian. Having reviewed and replied to the chief arguments offered in favour of admitting Jews—namely, that they were excluded by accident, that all subjects of a free state were entitled to an equality of civil rights, and that they had been admitted to the elective franchise—he reverted to what he considered the high and vantage ground, that our institutions were laid upon the foundation of Christianity, and urged the House to pause before it abandoned that ground.

Lord J. RUSSELL congratulated the House upon the favourable position in which the question now stood. Sir F. Thesiger had abandoned the old oath, which was an admission that it could not stand, and proposed a new one, and

to insert in that new oath words, the effect of which would be to exclude Jews. But in framing a new oath the Legislature should not go beyond the necessity, or load the oath with superfluous words, whereas this oath contained words and conditions quite unnecessary, and if it were intended to exclude Jews from the Legislature, it ought to be done directly. He did not think that the mere point of religious faith ought to be made a ground of exclusion, and if such men as Lord Brougham and Mr. Gibson could take this new oath, as they might do, what was the value of such a religious test? He opposed the amendment.

Mr. WARREN supported it. There was a great gulf, he observed, between Jews and Christians. What was everything to the one was nothing to the other. How, then, could they go together in the work of legislation? Their motives and objects were different. By rejecting the words "upon the true faith of a Christian," the House would establish a principle that would loosen the very foundation of oaths, and place a weapon in the hands of the infidel.

Mr. RING made a few remarks in reply to Mr. Warren, and in opposition to the amendment.

Mr. F. D. M. OMBRE observed that all parties seemed to be ashamed of the oath of abjuration, and it was admitted by the opponents of the bill that it was not the family of the Stuarts they were apprehensive of, but the House of Rothschild. He put it to the House whether things could be suffered to remain as they were, even if they were threatened with 100 Jewish members?

On a division the amendment was negatived by 159 to 110.

The bill then passed, and the House went into committee upon the remaining clauses of the Cambridge University Bill, which were agreed to with amendments, after a long discussion.

The Oxford University Bill was read a second time, after a brief explanation of its object by Sir G. Grey.

TUESDAY, JUNE 10.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

MR. CRAMPTON.

The Earl of CARNARVON having inquired whether any official communication from Mr. Crampton had lately reached the Foreign Office.

The Earl of CLANCAREE stated that letters written on the 27th ult. had arrived, and at that date Mr. Crampton had not received any notification respecting his dismissal by the United States Government.

Several bills were forwarded a stage, and their Lordships adjourned.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

CAPITAL PUNISHMENTS.

Mr. EWART moved for the appointment of a select committee to inquire into the operation of the law imposing the punishment of death. The main ground of his argument against capital punishment, he said, was its uncertainty. In all cases of infanticide by women, a verdict of murder was not found, and women generally were exempted from the punishment of death; and its repeal, he contended, was strictly in conformity with the spirit and precepts of the Gospel. The question was one of expediency; and experience had proved that capital punishment was ineffective, unequal, and uncertain. He appealed to many authorities in favour of the total abolition of capital punishment, which, in the possible case of an innocent person, was irreversible, and which, in all cases, contained the ingredient of retaliatory vengeance. Private executions and occasional punishment had been suggested as remedies; but neither would obviate the objections to the infliction of death, while a more lenient punishment, which would be more certain in its operation, would check false sympathy for the criminal.

The motion was seconded by Mr. Hadfield.

Mr. DUMMOND opposed the motion. He suggested that, with a view of relieving Secretaries of State from importunities from the advocates of condemned criminals, whereby the course of justice was impeded, a certain number of persons, including the judge who tried the case, should, if there be any fresh evidence, decide whether it was fit that the prerogative of mercy should be exercised.

Mr. BLACKMORE supported the motion.

Sir G. GREY said he had so often expressed his opinion upon this question that he could not offer anything new against the motion, which he hoped the House, for the sake of society, and not to lessen the protection thrown around human life, would reject. He was bound to express his opinion that men looked at the punishment of death with greater dread than any other. He denied that it was more unequal than any other, and, with regard to its certainty, a large discretion must necessarily be left in all cases to judges to apportion punishment to the different degrees of guilt. Capital punishment, he insisted, was not more vindictive in its character than imprisonment for life, and he thought it should be maintained.

The motion was, upon a division, negatived by 158 to 64.

ADVANCEMENT OF SCIENCE.

Mr. HEYWOOD moved for a select committee to inquire what public measures can be adopted to advance science and improve the position of its cultivators.

The CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER observed that the question involved in the motion was whether the Government, by the judicious application of public money, could advance science. But its terms were so indefinite that he doubted whether any advantage could be derived from the motion, which he recommended Mr. Heywood not to press.

Lord STANLEY also suggested that Mr. Heywood should not press his motion. Lord PALMERSTON said the difficulty lay in determining how science could be promoted by public measures, and he did not think the appointment of a committee was likely to lead to any satisfactory result. He should be thankful to any person who could suggest any measures within the scope of Parliament or the power of the Government for the advancement of science; but he thought it better that the motion should not be pressed at so late a period of the session. Mr. Heywood withdrew his motion.

THE PROPERTY OF MARRIED WOMEN.

Sir F. PERRY called attention to the state of the law of property as it affected married women. He observed that English women had been deprived of the rights they enjoyed under the old common law by changes made, not by the Legislature, but by the decisions of judges, and that the courts of equity recognised separate property in a married woman. It was the duty of Parliament, he argued, to rectify this conflict between the courts of equity and of common law, by extending the principles of the former, as more in accordance with the requirements of the age.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL concurred in Sir F. Perry's propositions; but recommended Sir Erskine not to press the matter then, assuring him that the subject had received the attention of the Government, and that it was their intention to bring forward a measure upon the subject next session.

The SOLICITOR-GENERAL said the true defect in the law lay in this,—that a husband, in making his marital duty, totally neglected the obligation which accompanied the gift of the wife's property, to the common law could not enforce the obligation. The wife's subject of the marriage law required great consideration, and he hoped Sir F. Perry would trust to the assurance given by the Attorney-General, that the question should not escape attention.

After some further discussion, Sir F. Perry withdrew his motion.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 11.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

THE NAWAB OF SURAT.

Mr. V. SMITH moved that the second reading of the Nawab of Surat Bill, which had been introduced as a private bill, should be postponed. The measure, he remarked, presented features which gave it the character of a public bill, and rendered a more deliberate consideration necessary before further progress was made with it.

Sir F. KELLY argued that the bill was designed to neutralise an act of injustice which the East India Company had attempted to perpetrate towards the heir of the late Nawab of Surat in refusing payment of an annuity of £15,000. Apprehending that any delay would imperil the safety of the bill for the present session, he moved as an amendment that the second reading should be taken forthwith.

Sir J. W. HOGG entered into a detail of various treaties and dealings between the East India Company and the Nawabs of Surat since the commencement of their mutual relationship in 1663, and justified the conduct of the company in stopping payment of the annuity in question.

A prolonged and miscellaneous discussion ensued, but ultimately Sir F. Kelly withdrew his amendment, and the further consideration of the bill was postponed.

THURSDAY, JUNE 12.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

IRISH ENCUMBERED ESTATES.

A petition from Lord Mountcashell on the subject of the Irish Encumbered Estates Court, gave rise to some conversation, in the course of which the LORD CHANCELLOR stated that a short continuance bill would be introduced prolonging the existence of the court for a further limited term, provided the bill now before the House of Commons, whereby the powers of the Encumbered Estates Court were transferred to the Irish Court of Chancery, was rejected by the Legislature.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

The House went into committee of supply, and passed some remaining votes for the civil service contingencies.

VOTE FOR EDUCATION.

The grant of £151,231, as the balance of the vote for education, in addition to a sum of £200,000 already granted on account, was preferred by a detailed statement of the purpose and application of the fund by Sir G. GREY. The grant had, he said, augmented every year as its utility became more apparent, and the educational machinery it set on foot or kept in motion, acquired a larger de-

velopment. Last year the whole sum voted was £396,921, and the amount asked for exceeded that sum by about £51,000. The cause of this increase, Sir Grey said, was attributable to the augmented number of schools, schools, masters, scholars, pupil teachers, and other departments of the educational system of the country.

Sir J. PAKINGTON adverted to the general state of education in the country, and commented upon the various proposals, especially those of Lord J. Russell, which had been presented with the view of extending and improving the system of national instruction. All experience, he contended, that a better education was deficient in quality, and the voluntary provision insufficient in quantity to supply the educational requirements of the community. The Right Hon. Member concluded by expressing his hope that, before the close of another session, some definite measure would be brought forward to make something approaching to an adequate provision for so arduous a deficiency.

Mr. BARNES, in moving an amendment by which the vote would be referred to the same amount as last year, contended that the grant was a great benefit, since misapplied under existing arrangements. The education provided by public money was not enjoyed by the children of the classes whom Parliament designed to benefit.

Approval of the increased vote, with some objections to points of detail, and a motion proposed by the Committee of Council, were expressed by Sir S. S. STUART, Mr. M. GIBSON, Mr. ALOEK, and Mr. HENLEY.

Mr. E. BALL supported the amendment.

Mr. W. J. FOX defended the present system of education, and trusted that the Privy Council would extend the grants to schools established on that principle. He supported the present vote, notwithstanding the insufficiency of the educational machinery which it set in motion, but anticipated the time when instruction would be universal, and schools maintained everywhere by an adequate tax.

Sir G. GREY briefly replied to some of the criticisms which had been addressed to the amendment, and the vote was agreed to.

Mr. CRAMPTON'S DISMISSAL.—At the time of our going to press, the dismissal of Mr. Crampton's dismissal is revived, and with more strong appearances of probability.

REPORTED RUPTURE BETWEEN AUSTRIA AND PIEDMONT.—The "British Gazette" asserts that Austria intends to recall her Chargé d'Affaires from Turin on account of a new note addressed by Count Cavour to the Court of St. Petersburg, and containing complaints against the attitude Austria assumed towards Sardinia.

THE SULTAN AND THE FRENCH INUNDATIONS.—The Sultan has remitted the sum of 40,000 francs for the sufferers by the French inundations. The British Ambassador and the Sultan's subjects residing at Paris have added the sum of 3,500 francs.

INNER LIFE OF THE HOUSE OF COMMONS.—NO. XX.

THOUGH there is no excitement in the House, but few members present, and the galleries are nearly empty, yet we are getting through the "business" at railroad speed; and if nothing unforeseen occur, the House will rise early, perhaps about the 24th of July, which is the date that the knowing ones fix for the prorogation. But still, there is no certainty about the matter. One thing, however, is certain, viz., that about three or four more nights "in supply" will give to Government all the money required, and when they have got that, they will begin "to slaughter the innocents," and prepare to wind up the session. To show that the House means business, it is only necessary to look at the proceedings of Monday last, when the "Abjuration Oath Bill" passed the third reading before dinner, and before the House rose, the Cambridge University Bill was through committee, and some half-dozen other bills were pushed on a stage. The speed of the University Bill was really remarkable, for in one hour we had six divisions. In the absence of anything more interesting, we will this week give our readers an Eastern Story.

THE STORY OF THE NAWAB OF SURAT.

Persons who are daily about London streets, may, during the last twelve months, have frequently seen a somewhat strange-looking equipage, to wit, a light blue carriage of large dimensions, of peculiar build, with blue hammer-cloth trimmed with silver; and seated in the said carriage, two portly Orientals, robed and turbaned. We lately saw this turn out in one of the back streets near Gray's Inn, as if it had just left the Mews, and on inquiring of one of the stable keepers who these Asiatics were, we received answer that they were "two Inglin Nabobs." Well, it is of these two gentlemen, who are often in the lobby, we have now to speak.

In Hindostan, there is a city called Surat, which was formerly an independent government, rejoicing in a Nawab. But in 1800, the East India Company having long been subjected to considerable expense in defending the said city from external foes, and keeping up something like a government within, came to an agreement with the then Nawab Naser-oddin Khan, that he should give up the government and revenues into their hands, on condition that he and his heirs for ever should receive the handsome sum of 150,000 rupees per annum. In 1821, the Nawab died, and the money was paid then to his only son, Afzul-odeen Khan, who in 1842 died also. To this period, all was straight and correct; but now began the dispute. Afzul-odeen Khan left no heirs male, but only two widows and a daughter, Miss Bukhtiaroolissa Begum, married to Meer Jafar Ali; and Mr. John Company, with a smartness savouring rather too much of Leadenhall Street, refused to pay more money, alleging that the word "heirs" in the treaty meant heirs male; and not only so, but actually seized the private estate of the deceased Nawab, and turned the unquectionable descendants and heirs of Naser-oddin out upon the world without a shilling. Well, it is to remedy this wrong that the representative of the Nawab has come over to England; and after vainly appealing to the justice of John Company, has got his affairs brought before Parliament. At first, Sir Erskine Perry, who took up the matter, intended to submit a resolution only to the House, declaratory of the rights of the injured parties. Subsequently, however, he resolved to bring in a public bill; and then, at last, brought in a private bill. This bill is now before the House, and it is understood will pass without opposition; and when passed, will not only renew the payment of the annuity, but will restore all the arrears accumulating since 1842; and also the private estate, of which the family has been robbed. The gentleman, then, who ride about London in the singular blue carriage, and are often seen in the lobby of the House, and in the Ambassador's gallery, are, first—Meer Jafar Ali, who married Miss Bukhtiaroolissa Begum, only surviving daughter of Meer Afzul-odeen Khan, "the last of the Nawabs" of Surat; and the other gentleman, who is always by his side, is the attaché or adviser of the said exalted personage. Though Meer Jafar Ali was thus deprived of his wife's property, he does not seem to have minded over his loss; for we should take him for twenty stone, at least. He is a remarkably fine imposing man, but not nearly so good looking as his attendant, who is uncommonly handsome, and has a head that betokens intellect of no common order. The annual sum which the Company will have to pay under this bill, if it pass, is about £18,000, besides all the arrears and the private estate of the late Nawab.

When these Orientals first came to the lobby, they of course attracted attention, by their portly appearance and Eastern costume; but still no great deal of respect was paid to them. And as day after day of the session passed away, and no opportunity offered to bring their case before the House, and when they had to wait hours for the few Members to whom they were known, they must have often been wearied and mortified by the neglect to which they were subjected; so different to the treatment which, of course, such persons were accustomed to receive in their own country. But now the case is altered—their history is known. They have been presented at Court; in short, they are known to be "somebodies" who have wealth at their command, more in prospect, station, and Court favour; and so, of course, now they have plenty of friends. No sooner do they appear in the lobby, but they are surrounded by a whole levee of Members. And if the bill pass, we should not be surprised if Meer Jafar Ali Khan becomes famous in the country, and whole columns of the "Morning Post" be taken up in chronicling his hospitable. Such is the story of the Nawab of Surat. There was a time when the inhabitants of this island went to Rome, the capital of the world, to seek for justice, and their strange appearance was the topic of gossip in the drawing-rooms, public places, and streets of the Eternal City. But Rome now is itself little more than a dependent province. The Roman province has become a mighty empire, and princes from the ends of the earth come to her to seek for justice. What next? and next? It is a strange sight to see the representative of an ancient line of Eastern princes canvassing for justice at the hands of—Mr. Patrick Murrough.

THE LONDON SEASON.

A VISIT TO THE OPERA.

Do English people go to the opera to hear the music, or to be looked at and to criticise each other's dresses? Are they fond of singing, or is it simply that they are afraid of absenting themselves from so fashionable an assembly?—a afraid that they should lose their standing and good name in elegant society? How many keep an opera-box for the same reason that they keep three footmen? not because they require it themselves, but because the circle in which they move requires it, and forces them to have one. We have often heard young ladies, who have been taken to the opera as a great treat, describe the pleasure of the visit to their friends, not as talking of the music or the singers, but by dilating upon the toilet and general appearance of the audience. We have also heard elderly ladies, whose incomes were moderate, and whose daughters were numerous, determine, after much inward struggling, upon taking one box in the stalls—not because any particular opera was to be performed, or any particular singer to appear, but merely because it looked so well for the girls to be seen at the opera, and it advanced their prospects in life.

These persons will go to the pit and gallery may perhaps be fond of music, because nearly all the applause comes from them; but then the clapping of hands is common heard in England, unless, indeed, when some singer finishes his song with a plentiful adornment of *roulades* and flourishes. Then we applaud the vocal gymnastics so much, that it hails makes you fancy that the performer had stood on his head or thrown a startling sunmeret, his success would have been greater still. In England, before an opera season commences, the manager has to use his utmost endeavours to attract the patronage of those who are wealthy enough to become subscribers for the season. Circulars are sent round containing the details of the forthcoming attractions—the operas to be produced, the singers to appear, and the orchestra to be engaged. He has to excite the curiosity and arouse the musical appetite of the west-end nobility and big-wig. The speculation is a risky one, full of pecuniary danger; for during the most successful seasons the expenditure is seldom balanced by the receipts, and in nine cases out of ten the only reward the manager receives for his six months' care and exertion, is the sympathy of his friends and a second-class certificate from the Bankruptcy Commissioner.

In Italy, where music is as necessary to the people as beer is to us, Stendhal tells us in his "Life of Rossini," that the inhabitants, for twenty miles round, flock into a town to be present at the opening-night of the opera. "All the hotels are crowded for days before, and the landlords become impertinent and exacting. When no house-room is to be had anywhere, many will remain in their carriages, the horses being taken out. All occupations cease. At the time the representation is going on, the city is like a desert. All the passions, all the anxieties, all the life of an entire population, are concentrated in the theatre."

Despite these drawbacks, there is no enjoyment like that of a visit to the opera; and we are infinitely grateful, that if we, as a nation, are unmusical, we are at least fashionable enough to require such pastimes.

You may easily know whether it is an opera night by the number of carriages dashing down the streets leading to Wellington Street or the Haymarket. Inside these are ladies with their heads adorned with flowers, and their hair carefully arranged, and they sit up primly on the soft cushions, and do not talk, because they are afraid of deranging their toilets. When the Queen visits the opera, the carriages are so numerous that the line of them extends beyond even the police regulations. Her Majesty always draws a better house than either the last opera or the most celebrated singers.

How proud all these superbly dressed people look, seated in their comfortable chariots! The man with the "books of the opera," wastes his time and flattens his shilling volume in vain against the carriage windows. He ought to run by the side of the hired family broughams, with the six inside; they are from the country, and will want to know what the singing is about; whilst the lady of quality is only going to sit in her box to chat with her friends and show herself, and naturally the "Italian, with English over against it," can be of no earthly use to her.

Most of the cabs draw up at the pit entrance, where one or two weak-minded youths, with cravat bows as large as open books, are exhibiting themselves to the passers-by. Sometimes the full-dress regulations interfere sadly with gentlemen who have spent much time, ingenuity, and pins, in endeavouring to give to a surcoat the appearance of a tail-coat. Poor fellows, when they are discovered and sent back, they either stand watching, with melancholy and envying eyes, the properly arrayed, as they enter, or else rush off in desperation to the old clothes stores in Holywell Street.

It is yet early when we enter the theatre. The boxes are empty as pigeon holes, and look black, whilst about half the seats in the pit are unoccupied, and the rows of benches seem like the bare ribs of some monster skeleton. It is too soon yet. The man in the orchestra has only just commenced to place the lights in the music stands. But the people are pouring in, and the pit fills up as fast as the full dresses of the ladies will allow them to slide along the narrow space between the benches. Presently only a few bald-looking places are left, as though bunches of the audience had been plucked out like hair. The box doors also begin to slam, and ladies come to the front, and make their dresses rustle like boughs as they spread them out before settling into their chairs. One family from the country has just made its appearance. These are four daughters, all decked out in muslin—that evidently owes its wonderful whiteness to bleaching on the grass—with pink sashes and large bouquets. The height of these sisters descends gradually, like organ pipes.

The musicians have taken their places. Some are tuning their instruments as if impatient to begin, as racers paw the ground. You hear the bumping of the scenes being shifted behind. The audience coughs, talks, or does what it likes—some stand up as though stretching their legs before the cramping begins. Now the pit is crowded, and the stalls are filling; the last that entered are standing on tiptoe, and in vain looking about them for a seat. They will have to remain on their legs for the evening.

Suddenly the lights are turned on, everything brightens, from the glass points of the chandelier above to the countenances of the audience below. Ladies take their places, and attentively fix their eyes upon a gentleman with white kid gloves, who is struggling to the seat in the orchestra. It is Signor Costa, the great breaker-in of skittish fiddlers and snorting trumpeters. He turns round carelessly and examines the house, says a word or two to those around him, and then mounts his perch to receive the applause. A minute more, and then a tap on one of the tie-shades is heard; his gloved hand is raised, and, as it descends, out bursts the harmony of the band. The violin bows move up and down as regularly as machinery, the pink dots of hands jump about like birds, and the huge trombone shines like a brass cannon. The boxes fill more rapidly, and the stalls are being occupied, as if the music had called the people to their places.

As the curtain ascends not a sound is to be heard but the "sh-h-h's" of the few who think that perfect silence can only be obtained by making a disagreeable sound. Ladies place aside their bouquets and unfold their fans. There are at least one hundred of these "wind instruments" moving backwards and forwards, making your eyes wink to watch them; some as large as palm leaves, others not bigger than the tail of a bantam hen.

The opera to be performed is that of "Lucrezia Borgia." When Genaro comes on the stage the gloves in the pit flutter like a flock of white pigeons, and stir the air into a breeze. The young ladies from the country are asking "Who is it?" and when they learn it is Mario, quarrel among themselves for the first peep through the opera glass; but the noble ladies in the dress tier, where the wax lights light up the gilt mouldings on the bulging panels, keep on chatting together, and pay no more attention to what is going on than if they were in a railway carriage.

Another round of applause. This time it is Gris; and as she, in acknowledgment, bends her head and shows her beautiful white shoulders, the gentlemen, in their turn, focus their glasses on her. Three old gentlemen in a sage-box, with rich red faces and white hair, who still carry about them the perfume of the dinner-table and rich wines, receive the Italian lady with patronising smiles, and delicately beat their fingers together, whilst they call her "a wonderfully fine woman," and protest that "her figure is as fine as ever." These gentlemen judge of the actresses at the opera rather by their personal appearance than by their voice.

A duet, a chorus, and a trio has been sung, and yet nobody has applauded. The singing was exquisite, making the pleasure of listening to it almost amount to an agony of delight. What can be the matter with the people? They are not rapt in the interest of the drama, because they continue the chatting in the boxes and the fanning in the pit. How the poor artists must think of Italy, and its enthusiasm, and mad gratitude! There, as Stendhal tells us, "after having applauded to excess, shouted, and made every possible noise for at least five minutes, when they had no longer the strength to shout, I noticed every one kneeling to his neighbour—a thing quite at variance with the suspicious nature of the Italian. The apathetic and the aged cried, from their boxes, 'O bello! O bello!' and kept on repeating this at least twenty times. They were addressing nobody; such a repetition of the same words would have been absurd; they had lost all idea of having any one next to them, and spoke to themselves." But, in England, a sultry evening, or the fear of being thought vulgar, is enough to check our enthusiasm, as if the heat made us grow limp, like *gutta-serena*.

As you look down upon the stalls and pit, they look like a huge block of marble, the black coats of the men running through it like dark veins. How brilliant and soft are the colours of the Cashmere opera cloaks! Some are bright orange, others blue, green, or red. Most of the dresses are white, tipped with pink or blue trimmings. Against the dark background of the boxes the slight forms of their occupants stand out like the figures in Van Dyke's portraits. Some of them are half-concealed by the red curtains, and but for the flowers resting on the ledge or the movement of the drapery, you would fancy the box deserted. Above is the gallery, with its multitude of heads and specks of coloured dresses going far back into the distance, like a plantation of hollyhocks on a hillside.

When the acts are over, the people begin to stir and stretch their legs. Some rush out to enjoy a draught of bitter beer; others sweep round the theatre with their glasses, and look at every face in the house. Now you can examine and criticise. There is one lady in the grand tier arrayed in a black gown, trimmed with red roses. In her head she wears a wreath of buds. She looks very beautiful, and everybody is staring that way. Her long neck and white skin, and the art with which her singular dress has been forced to become her, attract great notice. She ought to feel happy! Every variety of feature is to be seen. There are two young ladies in yellow silk, with red scarfs. Their costume, brown skin, black hair and eyes, show that they are West Indian beauties. How white all the partiings in the hair appear as you look down into the pit—almost like chalk lines! The varieties of head-dresses are sufficiently numerous to furnish illustrations for a barber's guide. Some with little crisp curls, like vine tendrils; others with large bunches of twining locks, falling down to and resting on the shoulders. There are plenty of heads dressed à l'Impératrice, showing the white temples and the blue veins in them; and there are many who have surrounded the face with an infinite number of *aéroche coeurs* gummed to the cheeks, and making them look as if they had been tattooed.

The people are coming back again to their places. Those in the pit make a great disturbance, as they force everybody to rise up and let them pass. They leave a trail of confusion behind them. The third act begins, and our country friends opposite open their books again, and follow closely the words of the songs. If a singer misses a single word, they are down upon him, and don't think him worth much. Everybody is waiting anxiously for Orsini's drinking song, because they all know the air or have tried to sing it at home. At length Mademoiselle Didée steps forward, cup in hand, and turning her pretty face to the house, begins the melody. Now every one is taking a music lesson, noting when they should give the proper expression, when dwell upon the notes or drop the voice. The song is encored. All the countenances are looking up. Englishmen shout "bravo!" and foreigners "bis." The country family nod to each other, and make mental notes for the next time they practise together.

The boxes are growing weary of the music, and the hissing noise of their whispered chat is heard everywhere. The beautiful dirge of the monks, "Sanctum et terribile nomen ejus," is interrupted by the shrill laughter of a young lady, who perhaps has seen the opera twice, and so, of course, knows it by heart. Two boxes off we hear two gentlemen talking. "Do you like that girl with light hair over in the pit tier, under the fourth chandelier?" says one. "Do you mean the one in black, looking up now?" answers the other. "No, the one smelling her bouquet," continues the first speaker. After a pause of examination, an indignant voice cries, "My dear fellow, she's got no eyelashes;" and so the question is settled.

The opera is over. Gris and Mario have been called for, and had bouquets thrown to them from mysterious side boxes. The three red-faced gentlemen have done all in their power to attract her attention as she passed across the stage, being no doubt anxious to lacerate her heart with a few loving glances; but the fair Italian has not even noticed them. One of them now calls her "a splendid wreck;" for he is spiteful and annoyed. More than one-half the company are going, and people hitherto concealed behind the curtains are showing themselves. We hear one old lady in a pit-box cry piteously, "Which is the Duchess?—do tell me;" and being told, she points her opera glass fiercely at the curiosity, as if she were firing at it with a double-barrelled pistol. After a moment, she says with a sigh, "I couldn't catch her face, but I saw her hand distinctly; it is very beautiful!" and appears contented and resigned.

Now carriages drive up, and footmen shout out grand names. Young fellows dart off in the direction of Simpson's, and give large orders to the waiters. The few ladies who stop for the ballet think Cerito very graceful and light, and wish they could dance as well as she does; whilst the gentlemen feel envious of M. Displaces, and would give their diamond studs to be allowed to put their arms round her waist as he does.

THE RING IN HYDE PARK.

There is another place where people go to look at each other, and, if possible, to be admired. Hyde Park is almost as fashionable as the opera, only the ladies, instead of being seated in boxes, jolt in carriages. The pretence for this delightful exhibition is that of "taking the air," but, of course, that is not the true object of the drive; indeed, many persons living at Norwood, Finchley, and Highgate, leave their pure atmospheres, merely to take a turn round the Serpentine, and look about them, and be looked at.

This fashionable meeting might almost be called a "Ladies' Show." The gentlemen stand on each side of the carriage-way, and, hanging over the rails, examine the countenance and costume of the female exhibitors. The prolonged stare or the raised eye-glass is the only kind of applause indulged in. The audience is usually a quiet one, seldom expressing its admiration in words, however beautiful the countenance of the passer-by may be.

What a vast amount of money and ingenuity have been expended to render these Hyde Park exhibitions complete and attractive! The milliners and dressmakers of Paris and London have made fortunes out of that afternoon's drive. Horses have been rendered useless for all other work, that they might learn how to throw out their legs on that mile of macadam. It is the "Longchamps" of London—a large show, where a bonnet with a new shape or trimming, or a dress with a new dounce or bodice, will attract a crowd of eyes, and furnish patterns for the next purchase or small talk for the drawing-room.

Rotten Row must, at the very least, be a mile in length, for the horsemen in the distance, trotting up the rising ground that leads towards Kensington Gardens, appear like black specks, scarcely to be distinguished from the shadows they cast.

The place reminds you of a riding school. There are so few spectators, that there is an air of privacy, as if it were a practising ground. The ride has been covered with a soft earth, that takes the impressions of the hoofs, spotting it like a sheep-walk. It gives you the notion that it has been placed there to ease the falls of any of the pupils who may be thrown from their saddles.

Most of the spectators hanging over the railings in Rotten Row, go there, not to see the riders, but to admire the horses. It is a sight as peculiar to England as a procession of charity children or a brewery. What heavy cheques have been signed for each of those proud, ambling animals! What care has been bestowed to polish up those hides, and trim those fetlocks, so as to render them fit to appear in the *haute société* of the Park! They are of all colours and mixtures of colours. A chestnut cob, with a

full bright eye, ambles past, moving his ears backwards and forwards as quickly and suddenly as a pianist's fingers. A brown horse, with a rounded neck shining like polished mahogany, walks past, looking frantically on the ground, like a child asking. He seems angry at having a master on his back. Sometimes he turns sideways and prances, as if to remonstrate against the power that governs him. Or else a handsome beast—black with white legs, like an ox stone—darts by, tossing the foam into the air, and bowing its rough nostrils with fierce pride. He throws out his legs straight from him like a boxer hitting. We noticed an old gentleman on an iron-gray cob, which went sideways, like a boat adrift. The old gentleman was heavy, but the cob was savage and proud, and shook and tossed his venerable load, until his watch-seals, shirt-trill, and full stomach threatened to break loose and come off. The ladies' horses are quieter, as though they had been politely educated. Their thin fetlocks bend like springs, to ease the jolting and the only prank they indulge in is in stretching out their necks, and suddenly dragging forward the slender arm and small hand that holds the reins.

Sometimes parties of ladies and gentlemen, six or seven abreast, advance silent and compact as a body of cavalry, and gallop over the ground, as if they were determined in charging into the midst of the carriages drawn up at the entrance to the ride; others, in groups of two or three, are slowly walking their horses, keeping close to the side rails, and chatting as well as the jolting of the animals will permit them. This chatting seems to depend entirely upon how such parties are composed. When it is a papa accompanying his daughters, it is curious to remark how silent the young ladies are: they look about them, pat their horses, arrange their dress, do anything but converse together; but occasionally, one of these groups goes past, the ladies laughing and speaking so loudly, that at a distance you could imagine they were quarrelling with the young fellow leaning sideways over his saddle, and looking up into their faces. He is too attentive to be a brother, and they laugh too much, and reply too coquetishly, for him to be a relation of any kind.

Most ladies look well on horseback. The hat allows the greater portion of the hair to be seen, and the veil gives mystery to the countenance, hiding the ugly, and making the pretty appear doubly beautiful. Then the tightly fitting body of the habit shows off the delicate and rotundity of the figure, whilst the folds of the long skirt floating in the air, give a lightness to the form, already rendered graceful from the half-crouching attitude required by the saddle. Some of the ladies wear beaver or velvet wide-awakes, ornamented with a bunch of plumes; other low-crowned hats, with the veil falling around from the broad brim. A bright neck-ribbon relieves the monotony of the even-tinted cloth habit, whilst the white glove gives a finish to the general appearance. Occasionally, when these ladies trot along the ride, the breeze will force on one side the thick folds of the skirt, and induce you with a peep at a small polished leather shoe, resting in the bright steel stirrup. It is not much, but it is soothing!

Following after each group, rides the groom in his natty, well cut livery, mounted on the most vicious horse in the stable. His legs look almost as if cast in plaster of Paris, so closely do his white buckskins fit to the flesh, and so immovably does he keep them fixed against the horse's sides. His face is closely shaven, and a white neckcloth tied round his neck, more like a bandage than a tie, gives neatness and simplicity to his appearance. Why they have a leather strap round the waist, we cannot say, unless it is to pull the figure in, or supply a fresh stirrup strap, if one of those in use should be accidentally broken.

On the other side of the Serpentine, the scene is very different. There the carriages are moving slowly up and down the road, and crowds of spectators hang over the rails that edge the footpaths, looking at each face that is driven by. Whilst we were standing in Rotten Row, we thought nothing could be more beautiful than the graceful Amazons galloping past us, but now we are in the carriage drive, we feel convinced that a lady in a carriage looks immeasurably the better of the two. Those bonnets perched on the back of the head, with the lace edges resting on the broad bands of smooth, glossy hair; the delicate cheek, half crushing the flowers fastened around it: the graceful form reclining so idly on the soft cushions of the barouch, present to us a pleasanter and cooler picture than that of a young lady being jolted in her saddle, until the blood is pumped up into her face.

There are green carriages picked out with white, and blue carriages picked out with red; spinach and pea green, Prussian blue, and cobalt-coloured vehicles. There are yellow carriages with black stripes, like a wasp's body; and wicker-work phaetons, which may be light, but are too much like clothes baskets to be elegant; and broughams, with all kinds of springs, some very near the ground, others high up, as chariots; and mail-phaetons, with two grooms with folded arms, like Napoleons in livery, seated behind; and heavy landaus, with chintz furniture, like bedsteads; and elegant cabs with springy shafts, that make the little fellow holding on behind, dance and jump up and down like a toy; indeed there is every kind of conveyance, including dog-carts, curricles, gigs, and horse killers.

One carriage has a bright scarlet hamper-cloth, shining like a letter carrier's coat, and on it is seated a coachman with gray extremities, a flaxen dollish wig, and pink silk stockings. He keeps his eyes fixed on the gray, prancing horses, as if every other minute he expected them to bolt off. The "gentlemen" behind have cocked hats and carry long sticks. They look like dandy beards with their great-coats off. Their hair is powdered like a miller's after carrying flour sacks, their whiskers are bushy, their calves firm, and their bearing aristocratic.

A brougham, of evident newness, is walking slowly down the road. By the door rides a gentleman on horseback, who leans down so as to be near the window, where a pretty face is peeping out. They are talking sentimental nonsense, for the large blue eyes of the lady are turned up towards the ambrosial whiskers of the cavalier with an expression of sad happiness.

A George the Fourth phaeton, with a lady driving, crosses before the brougham. The lady switches the horses with her whip, and makes a noise with her lips as if she were calling a canary. We are hurt to find that the whip is a recent invention on, combining with its driving purposes the usefulness of a parasol. The lady is very pretty, with eyes as large as a fawn's; but we object to ladies who drive. It makes the hands become hard and the arms muscular.

That brougham is a hired one. The lining is dragged and crushed, and the silk curtains to the windows in front have turned to the colour of an over-ripe cherry. Besides, the driver has burst boots on and jerks the reins like a cabman, half breaking the jaw of the thin, brown horse with the patched collar and string-tied harness. Inside there is an old woman. We look another way.

Many of the servants have black cockades in their hats, looking like ventilators that have become fixed and want to go round. If the liveries are not becoming, they are gorgeous—as witness that stout footman in a blue coat, crimson-plush breeches, and white stockings. An oilman's shop front could not be painted in showier colours.

If the people do not go to be looked at, why do they allow the horses to walk when they reach the Serpentine, where the foot-path is the most crowded? Everybody is staring at that young lady in the stanhope phaeton with the cane sides and light blue lining. She doesn't appear to be aware of it, but continues playing with a little spaniel on the seat in front of her, making the little animal shake the silver bells on its rose-velvet collar.

About six o'clock, the multitude begin to look at their watches, and make the best of their way home to dinner. Voices inside the carriages call out to the coachmen "home," and gradually the cavalcade thins, leaving behind only those who have taken an early dinner, or who are very fashionable, and never touch a knife and fork before 8 P. M.

MEYERBEER says rumour, is engaged on a work for the Royal Italian Opera, which will inaugurate the new opera house. Covent Garden will be the site, and arrangements are all but completed for the commencement of the season at the usual time, in April, 1867.

ELECTION NEWS.—At Leicester, the Hon. Mr. Wentworth, from the Conservative Club, St. James's Street is in the field on the Conservative interest. Mr. Biggs, the Mayor, and Mr. John Pigot, are also candidates. Sergeant Kinglake will be a candidate for Rochester next election in the Liberal interest, in conjunction with Mr. P. W. Martin, the present member. The Learned Gentleman has been in Rochester, and was well received at a meeting of the liberal electors.



MADAME RISTORI AS MEDEA.
 "MEDEA," the tragedy in which Madame Ristori made her first appearance, is an Italian version by a Signor Montanelli, of a French work by M. Ernest Legouve. M. Legouve was first known in the character of a dramatist through the pieces he produced in collaboration with M. Scribe, one of which, the "Bataille des Dames," met with some success in London, under the imperfectly-rendered title of the "Ladies' Battle." M. Legouve was said to have suggested the idea of the piece, and afterwards to have written it on M. Scribe's scenario. However this may have been, he acquired considerable reputation as a dramatic writer, and a suggestion he made to Mdlle. Rachel, of supplying her with an original work on the subject of Medea—the part of the ill-fated heroine being of course destined for the great tragedienne herself—was favourably received; and instead of allowing the piece to be written for the Théâtre Français, and paid for in the usual manner, in proportion to the money received at the door, Mdlle. Rachel ordered the piece specially for herself.

When executed, the work was disapproved of, for some reason which no one could explain, although Mdlle. Rachel had an excellent opportunity of doing so before a legal tribunal, to which the question was referred by the author. The committee of the Théâtre Français were willing the piece should be played on the boards of their theatre, provided Mdlle. Rachel would consent to take the principal part, but the capricious actress refused to do so. She was, however, "condemned," to use the French expression, first, to play the part; secondly, in case of her persistently refusing to do so, to pay a fine for every night, after a fixed date, on which her refusal prevented the performance of the piece.

Whether or not Mdlle. Rachel continues to pay her fine every night, we are unable to say, but probably some compromise was effected between the actress and the author. At all events, Mdlle. Rachel never appeared as Medea. M. Legouve published the piece, and although it met with a large sale and achieved a decided literary success, there appeared to be no probability of its ever being acted when Madame Ristori arrived in Paris to teach the nations who were being represented at the great Industrial Congress of 1855, that histrionic genius was still alive in Italy. Madame Ristori's success was sudden and decisive. She electrified her audiences, who had not to study her, but were at once made to sympathise with her. It was not long before comparisons were instituted between her and Rachel, and the slightly malicious, though

quite justifiable, idea was suggested to M. Legouve, of getting his tragedy "done into Italian," in order to try the experiment, whether the greatest actress of Italy could make a fine part out of what had been pronounced to be a worthless one by the greatest actress of France. The experiment was thoroughly happy, and Madame Ristori, emboldened by her success in a very fair specimen of French tragedy, translated into Italian, is now said to meditate appearing in the masterpieces of Racine and Corneille, played in the original language. If this should be the case, and she should attempt to vie with Mdlle. Rachel on her own ground, she will have the disadvantage of speaking not only in a language which is not her own, but in one which, for poetical purposes, is very inferior to her own. On the other hand, she will have much better pieces in the French than in the Italian repertoire. There is no sort of equality between "Myrrha" and "Phèdre," or between "Franceca da Rimini" and "Les Horaces."

"Medea" is written somewhat after the same plan as Casimir Delavigne's "Enfants d'Edouard." In Casimir Delavigne's piece, the object of the dramatist is to make intelligible to the audience the murder of two children by their ambitious and unscrupulous uncle; in Legouve's piece, we are shown how a tender-hearted mother, under the influence of persecution and the dread of being parted from them for ever, destroys her adored offspring. In each piece there is one character to which all the others are made entirely subservient, and each piece is written up to the incident of the murder—on which the curtain suddenly falls.

The three important characters in M. Legouve's play are of course Medea, Jason, and Creusa, whom those who are more familiar with Bellini than with Euripides, may look upon as the dramatic equivalents for the Norma, Pollio, and Adalgisa of the opera. More than one of the scenes are, in fact, as regards design, free imitations from the best *libretto* which Romani ever offered to a composer. Independently of the three characters we have mentioned, M. Legouve has introduced two others—Creon, King of Corinth, the father of Creusa, and Orpheus. Orpheus is apparently brought in, in order to give relief to the character of Jason, with whom he forms a strong contrast. The one is the artist, and the man of gentle, poetical, and constant affection, who will one day go down to Hades in search of his Eurydice; the other is the man of action, and his passion is strong, sensual, and unenduring.

The exposition of the piece, and of the character of the heroine, are in the true French style; and it is not until the audience have been



MADAME RISTORI AS MEDEA.—(FROM A DRAWING BY A. GRAFFL)



A WELSH INTERIOR.—(FROM A PAINTING BY D. W. DEANE IN THE ROYAL ACADEMY EXHIBITION.—SEE NEXT PAGE.)

thoroughly "prepared" with respect to the infidelity of Jason, the loves of Jason and Creusa, and the implacable nature of Medea's wrath, that the mother who is destined to sacrifice her children makes her appearance, leading one in each hand, and, like them, exhausted by fatigue. The first really dramatic scene is the one which now follows between Medea and Creusa, between whom a feeling of friendship is at first established, which soon yields to one of rivalry and hatred when it is discovered that Creusa is on the point of being united to the treacherous Jason. The scene is well written, and the transitions, which presented some difficulty, have been skillfully managed. The first act ends with Creusa's avowal of her love, and a consequent threat from Medea, which exhibited Madame Ristori to us for the first time in a grandly tragic position. In her previous scene she had exhibited her pathetic power, and the first act of Medea, little as she has to act in it, sufficed to show the public that Madame Ristori was the greatest actress of modern times. She appears to us distinctly to be an actress of genius who at the same time possesses a considerable amount of talent; Rachel being, on the other hand, an actress of the greatest talent, who has inspirations of genius occasionally. Ristori possesses that *vaireté* which is generally seen in connection with undoubted genius, and with power exercised almost unconsciously. Rachel does not strike us as possessing it at all. The voice and look of Ristori at once put her *en rapport* with the audience; but instead of the *clairvoyance* (of which her fatigued anxious look gave her much the appearance) being affected by the audience, the action was, of course, exactly reversed, and every individual had his attention fixed upon the actress, whose magnet influence made him feel her love, her gratitude, her jealousy, and her despair, just as the different feelings arose in her breast. Probably very few persons present understood Italian, or, at all events, had never been in the habit of hearing it recited, but we think every one must have understood Ristori.

In the second act, Medea feels that she is being irresistibly drawn towards the commission of the crime at which she shudders, while feeling that it enters into her destiny. In the third act, the children are about to be taken from her for ever. Then she destroys them. "Who has killed my children?" cries Jason, in despair. "Tu!" exclaims Medea, with a maledictory tone and gesture in which Madame Ristori reached the sublimity of tragedy.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "ILLUSTRATED TIMES."

THAT high authority, the "Athenæum," which in its criticism on Ristori, prints the word "redoubt" with two n's, to the slight detriment of tense and sense, says "Medea" is a very poor play, and the company of actors, except Medea and a "tolerable" Creusa, wretched. I thought it a far better company than Rachel brought with her last time, and I wish I were as certain of seeing as good a one any night I felt inclined to go up Oxford Street way. And as to the weakness of "Medea," I should be glad if the British dramatists, who cause occasional public eruptions of "Viduas" and "Ducless Eleanors," could write anything half as interesting and would write anything so short.

There is but one fault to find with Ristori—she is too accomplished to be enjoyed by one pair of ears and two eyes; a man needs more hearing and visual organs to listen to and look fully at her. There's the music of her voice to be taken in (not out to advantage by the bad voices of every other actor in the piece), the meaning of her words—and one of them has sometimes many meanings—her tremendous, her really awful passion; her exquisite tenderness and pathos, which, in the last act, made me fairly cry; her great personal beauty, and her lovely sculptural attitudes. These postures of hers—from her first entrance with her children to her final figure like spring towards her husband—form a complete series of studies for British chisellers—or would do rather, if the notorious and the unknown among that gifted body were not too busily engaged in Sackville Street, imitating a memorial to Sir Benjamin Hall, containing sentences marvellous for their special pleading and their wondrous conceit.

Yesterday, in turning over a volume of "L'Illustration," I came across a critique of "Medea," then just published, in self-justification, by Ligouvé, which ended with these words:—"Esprons qu'il se trouvera avant peu un artiste de talent et de goût qui réparera l'insuccès de la Mademoiselle Rachel." I can fancy the scornful smile with which that Parisian "party" may have read these lines in November, 1854, and the different smile that would pass over her mouth were she to read them now.—Yours obediently,
June 7, 1856.

TROIS-ETOILES.

THE ROYAL ACADEMY EXHIBITION.

If an artist wishes to become popular, and to make money without caring about becoming great, one of the best things he can do is certainly to devote himself to the representation of pretty girls. He need not paint a "Belle Jardinière," or a "Virgin with the Fish," or a "Virgin in the Chair," all he has to produce is a girl with a straw-hat in a garden, or a Boulogne fisherwoman, or a young lady in a drawing-room. Paintings of this kind appeal to all men who have not quite become brutes, whereas the majority of other pictures only appeal to persons who have some sort of feeling for art. We except, of course, such things as groups of melons, portraits of lobsters, &c., &c., for the presence of which it is altogether brutal to have a constant desire; whereas it is altogether foolish not to have them in their actuality, instead of in more or less imperfect representation, if such desire, after all, really exist.

Handsome men are not so available as pretty girls for pictorial purposes. In the first place, it is difficult to find the handsome men, independently of which, and if they really had not almost disappeared from modern European life, it would be unbecoming, and, indeed, impossible, for ladies to hang up their effigies in their drawing-room or boudoirs. Pretty girls, however, are plentiful; or, at all events, girls with soft blue eyes and fair ringlets, or with brilliant black eyes and dark bands—the two combinations which appear to be thought most desirable by our painters of the Keepsake school.

Mr. A. Solomon in the two paintings which he exhibits this year, "Doubtful Fortune" (533), and the "Bride" (486), while indulging in the combinations in question, has at the same time varied them in the most ingenious manner possible; for while in "Doubtful Fortune" he gives us two dark ladies and one fair, in the "Bride" he gives us two fair ladies and one dark. In the former of those two pictures (of which we publish an engraving) we have simply a scene of fortune-telling, in which no one believes, and, consequently, by which no one is deceived, although one person is pleased and another annoyed by a probability suggested by the amateur priestess of the card table. The lady who is sitting at the said table is selecting from two long rows of cards the King of Diamonds, which, as every one knows, stands for "a fair man." The "fair man" is coming from some place or other to meet the fair girl, who is listening ecstatically to the oracle, and throwing her arms round the dark girl in the white dress and purple ribbons, with an ardour of affection which at once proves them to be deadly enemies. This they, in fact, are; for the dark girl, who is being embraced in spite of herself, would like nothing better than to have her place supplied—the place of the fair girl, we mean, not her own—by the King of Diamonds, whose advent is indicated by the position of the cards on the table. The young ladies are rivals, which accounts for this slightly Iscariot-like fondness of the successful one. The other, whom we suppose to be to some extent the victim of the King's deceit, is looking down at the cards, and endeavouring to persuade herself that fortune-telling is an absurd relic of superstition, although she would have preferred that some other suit than diamonds, or some other card than the king, had turned up. On the piano is a song, which we perceive to be the production of Mr. Macfarren; so that the sorrowful young lady is not likely to become more lively if she betakes herself to the piano. The piano itself is unobtrusive, and might be made of almost any wood (or other substance) of which it is unusual to make that instrument. But the letters upon the song are given clearly enough. We suppose that if there had been any pencil-marks on the music, they would have been given still more clearly than the large printed letters.

In the "Bride" (486), we have a pictorial exhibition of an idea which we believe has already formed the subject of a drama. At all events, it is dramatic enough in character, although the interest is of a somewhat bourgeois description. In the former picture, Mr. Solomon had made the fair girl triumphant, and it would have been a piece of civility to have given the dark one the superiority in this one. The brilliant blonde, however, is trying on a white dress covered with *bouquets* (in which green predominates rather too much), and the little brunelle, with her hair flattened to her pale cheeks in the most mournful bands, is attending upon her, and assisting in the arrangement of the dress of which she has herself been the maker. Perhaps she only looks so sad, simply because she is not going to be married herself (the reason why, according to Mr.

Thackeray, bridesmaids cry at weddings), but in all probability she has just discovered that the young lady at whose toilette she is presiding is on the point of being united to a lover of her own. If so, we should advise the confident blonde to beware of the needle which the young brunelle has raised in the air, under pretext of employing it merely in the adjustment of the dress. We are of opinion that Mr. Solomon would have rendered his picture more effective, and he would also have been truer to nature, if he had made the dressmaker, in this instance, more interesting in appearance than the young lady. The latter has beauty, elegance, position (and probably money) on her side, while the young dressmaker has only her meanness. Accordingly, there is not a sufficient conflict of interest, and we only pity the little girl, without sympathising with her very deeply, while we do not feel nearly so disgusted with the lover for having left her, as we should have done if she had been really prettier or more graceful than her more fortunate rival. Besides, if she had not been a very attractive girl, no man who had it in his power to marry a young lady who was able to wear white dresses, covered all over with green bouquets, would ever have thought of speaking to her.

The greatest of the white satin and book-muslin gowns used by the Winterhalter, although his touch is now becoming heavy, so that even the artness and elegance of his drapery, which used sometimes to relieve his conventionality, is disappearing. As a specimen of what such a school can produce, and of what a most illustrious patroness of the school can purchase, we may mention the equestrian portrait of the Empress Eugénie, by M. Boutebelle. (The picture is the property of the Queen.) Nothing can be more affected and sickly than the pink creaminess of the complexion and the ridiculous attempt at delicacy in the features, which appear to be pinched up by want or consumption. The hand which should have been concealed by so incapable a draughtsman is audaciously thrust forward; and although not pressing on the horse's neck, in close proximity to which they are placed, the figures are nevertheless curved backwards in a style which suggests nothing less than strychnine and tetanic convulsions.

Mr. D. W. Deane appears to devote himself to the "Illustration" of Wales, or rather to so much of it as can be seen in the interior of a Welsh cottage. He has exhibited two Welsh interiors, and if the public like one there is not much chance of their disliking the other, for as far as the main characteristics are concerned they are exactly the same. We confess that we like them both. In the "Interior of a Cottage in North Wales" (401),—vide our engraving—and in the "Welsh Fireside" (599), we notice the same reflection from the fire in the face of the inmates, who are sitting round the hearth; and, above all, the same white enamel-like smoke, which is something like smoke, but a great deal more like the brilliant white walls which Deane is so fond of introducing into his Turkish scenes. The colour and general tone of the pictures are excellent. How far they represent Welsh interiors we are unable to say; but if they do so with any fidelity, Welsh interiors are principally remarkable for having a number of vegetables lying about the ground. We distinguished the cabbage and potato in one picture, and did not fail to recognise the carrot in the other, but where, we ask, was the national leak? One peculiarity which struck us about the hearths in these interiors was their resemblance to the hearths of Brittany, which is easily explained by the strongly conservative character of the Celts in both Brittany and Wales. In fact, there is such a general resemblance between Wales and Brittany, that Mr. Deane might call half of his pictures "Welsh interiors," and the other half "Breton firesides." He would thus gain a reputation for great variety.

PALMER'S TRIAL.

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TO CORRESPONDENTS.

WE have received three or four letters from subscribers, complaining that their news agents would not allow them the option of purchasing or declining to purchase the portrait of the Queen issued with the "Illustrated Times" of last week. We can only say that the purchase on the part of the agents was entirely optional, and that they were not justified in retaining the paper and print on other terms than those announced in our advertisements.

Will "Trois Etoiles" say how we can return him his very clever sketch, which arrived too late for us to make use of?

ILLUSTRATED TIMES.

SATURDAY, JUNE 14, 1856.

THE AMERICAN "DIFFICULTY."

As this is really the only political question about which people feel any interest, we make no apology for returning to it. Our readers will remember that we saw its importance long ago, when few papers thought it worth their while to meddle with it, and when statesmen seemed agreed to ignore its very existence. But it is not a question to be longer put off, though it should be discussed without excitement, and, still more, without bitterness.

At first sight, the case against Crampton, and the Ministers who employed him, looked very black. That was in the days when the Philadelphia courts were occupied with the enlistment trials, and Hertz was in full swing. Since then we know Hertz better, like him worse, and want other evidence. Now, what is the weight of the offence committed by Government in the enlistment matter, to begin with? It amounts, we think, to a grave indiscretion. It is easy to say that the Yankees ought not to have been angry—that we were paying them a compliment—and we have our own opinion as to the taste which the PIERCE Cabinet has shown in resenting it; but a law is a law. The law by which America punishes offences against her neutrality is part of a very important principle of her policy, and involves the whole attitude of her Government towards foreign Powers. That law our Ministers and their agents went to work to evade. Well, it is not a very dignified position that for England, to begin with. But let that pass. Mr. Crampton assumed the position of the "Artful Dodger" towards the State in which he represented her MAJESTY. It got wind that he wanted men, and applications soon came in. A ship to sail from New Orleans to Halifax (with men willing to enlist at Halifax) was announced in the newspapers—Mr. Crampton being in communication with the man who made the announcement, and giving his sanction to it. Was this a breach of the neutrality laws? It is really a legal question. But the question for the general public is, was this a proper kind of thing for an English Ambassador to be doing? Why all the secrecy—the care—if there was nothing wrong? Mr. Crampton did not wish to break the law, we believe; but we cannot think that he did right in evading it. To undertake (as he did) to pay the expenses to Halifax of any man willing to enlist, was a gross evasion of the law. Such recruits were not formally recruits, perhaps, but virtually they were. He knew that it would displease the American Government, and that he was in concert with American subjects against the intentions of their rulers. In the eyes of a lawyer there may still be much to say for him; we only maintain, that morally and politically, his conduct was not right.

To do Government justice, they were not long in seeing their error.

By the 22nd of June Lord PANMURE had set his face against these attempts; but yet, another such "error" was committed in the next month. The "trials" soon followed, and querulous and controversial dispatches passed to and fro the Atlantic. In these disputes Lord CLARENDON stuck far too closely to the merely legal view. He was to have relied on his not having broken the law, but to have failed to see that it was the attempt to evade the law which constituted an important part of his offence. His apology was neither so early nor so spontaneous as it might have been, and the pertinacity of his special pleading only irritated instead of convincing. He now apologises so explicitly, that we do not see how the Americans can, in the way of apology, ask more. But it is only fair to a man that they had some reason to be angry; nor can we wonder that Mr. Crampton, after being the agent in all this unpleasant business, should be an unwelcome resident at Washington. A Government of any sort, might retain Mr. DALLAS after receiving Mr. Crampton, and confine its retaliation to not sending a successor. Assuredly the country is not prepared to back up Ministers through thick and thin, who (to speak mildly) have given just offence to a kindred Power by acts of indiscretion. No doubt, it is "humiliating" to be subdued; but it is not the country that is humiliated. The country was never consulted; and that indiscreet individuals should sometimes get themselves humiliated, who wonders?

But the enlistment question is most dangerous, as a "feeder" of the Central American row. That—as we said before, when the country seemed mistaken about it—is really the worst question of the two. The enlistment is done and over, and apologised for, and must cool down soon; but a matter of future and historic consequence is involved in the question, what is to become of Central America? The fact is, that *these* events are in progress, which are not brought about by Governments or Ministries alone, but by more general laws than those whose operation is readily traced in everyday affairs. The Spanish republics there are done for, in plain English; sunk in degeneracy, and torn to pieces by internal dissensions. The region itself, by circumstances which nothing can stop, is become a Yankee highway, from one great sea to another, and from one Yankee country to another; so that the question is not a mere diplomatic inquiry whether WALKER ought to be, or to have been, "recognised"; but involves this one,—whether we mean to contest with the Americans the supreme sway of that part of the world? This is the practical question. WALKER is a buccaner, no doubt; but they are not out of what we may call the "buccaner epoch" yet in those quarters, and it is nonsense to suppose that we shall be able to deal with Nicaraguan democrats and New Orleans sailors, as if they were ratepayers in St. Paul's. The CLAYTON-BULWER Treaty shirked the point of most importance—viz., the question what rights the Mosquito Indians (whom we protect) had in Nicaragua? That treaty, as we showed once before, provided for neither Power—England nor America—fortifying, colonising, &c., those regions; but it evaded the point above mentioned, which has ever since caused disputes. It also contrived to leave vague the meaning of the phrase "British Honduras." We are now, therefore, at sea again about all these questions, and *now* they press for solution; for *now* one of those movements natural to a State like America—the expedition of WALKER—has brought both countries to a point when they must settle their relative claims. We must, in short (as we fear), make up our minds, precisely, how much of Central America is worth fighting for? That is what the Yankees are really curious to know. Not that (in spite of PIERCE and his crew) we think they have any abstract wish to fight us from pure unfriendliness; but they are infinitely anxious, earnest and confident about the extension of their race,—and look on their possession of Central America as what in their slang is called "man's destiny."—They think that they have as much right to extend themselves there, as we have in India.

By "recognizing" WALKER, the American Government has taken an important step,—and one which they must bring our Government to a decision as to what they mean to claim in the new Treaty which is evidently necessary. Hitherto, they have claimed the protectorate of the Mosquito country, involving a claim on the Nicaragua territory,—the port of Greytown (where an American steamer was compelled to pay port dues by a British man-of-war), and the Bay islands as dependents of British Honduras. Every one of these claims is grudged by the Americans, or openly denied; and if we set down two-thirds of the present excitement in the States (as perhaps we may) to electioneering dodgery and the recklessness of PIERCE—it is still evident that we must admit there are grounds for difficulties between the nations independent of such temporary passions.

It won't do—we see—to suppose that there are no points of serious interest and difficulty in the present dispute,—though unnecessary excitement has arisen from their discussion. The Yankee eagerness for extension in Central America is not a matter of hatred to Great Britain, but of the natural expansion of his race on a continent where he has a right to be hopeful about his rule.—Are we to allow for that expansion as a fact in history which cannot ultimately be put down? The public must consider this at once. It cannot trust its diplomatists for an intelligible Treaty,—much less for a permanent one,—nor its present Ministry for such tact and conduct as shall make the most of difficult situations.

SAYINGS AND DOINGS.

THE DUKE OF BEDFORD reclaimed the land and ruins of the Old Covent Garden Theatre (so they now say in theatrical circles; only to place them anew at the disposal of those who are resolute to re-establish the Royal Italian Opera; and that the theatre is to be rebuilt on its old site, with alterations and improvements.

WITH REFERENCE to the existing disputes between the Governments of Great Britain and the United States, the Paris "Débats" observes that it is only just to England to acknowledge that the dignity and moderation are all on her side.

A REGULAR STEAMBOAT EXCURSIONIST SYSTEM has been organised between Constantinople and Balacava, at very moderate rates, and with all the usual Western appliances of accommodation and enjoyment.

BARON MAROCHETTI has completed the monument for Scutari; it is now on its way to the East.

MR. M. BANTIN, one of the authors of the "Tales by the O'Hara Family," has been appointed postmaster of Kilkenny.

THE REGISTRARSHIP of the University of London, vacated by the death of Dr. Rothman, has been filled up by the election of Dr. Carpenter.

THE GOVERNMENT has resolved to make the case of the Tipperary Bank the subject of criminal proceedings.

THE WIFE OF MR. MILLAIS gave birth to a son, at Annet Lodge, Perth, on Saturday last.

DURING THE LAST MONTH, 16,361 emigrants quitted Liverpool—1,337 proceeding to Australia, 13,262 to the United States, 1,974 to Canada, and 95 to New Brunswick.

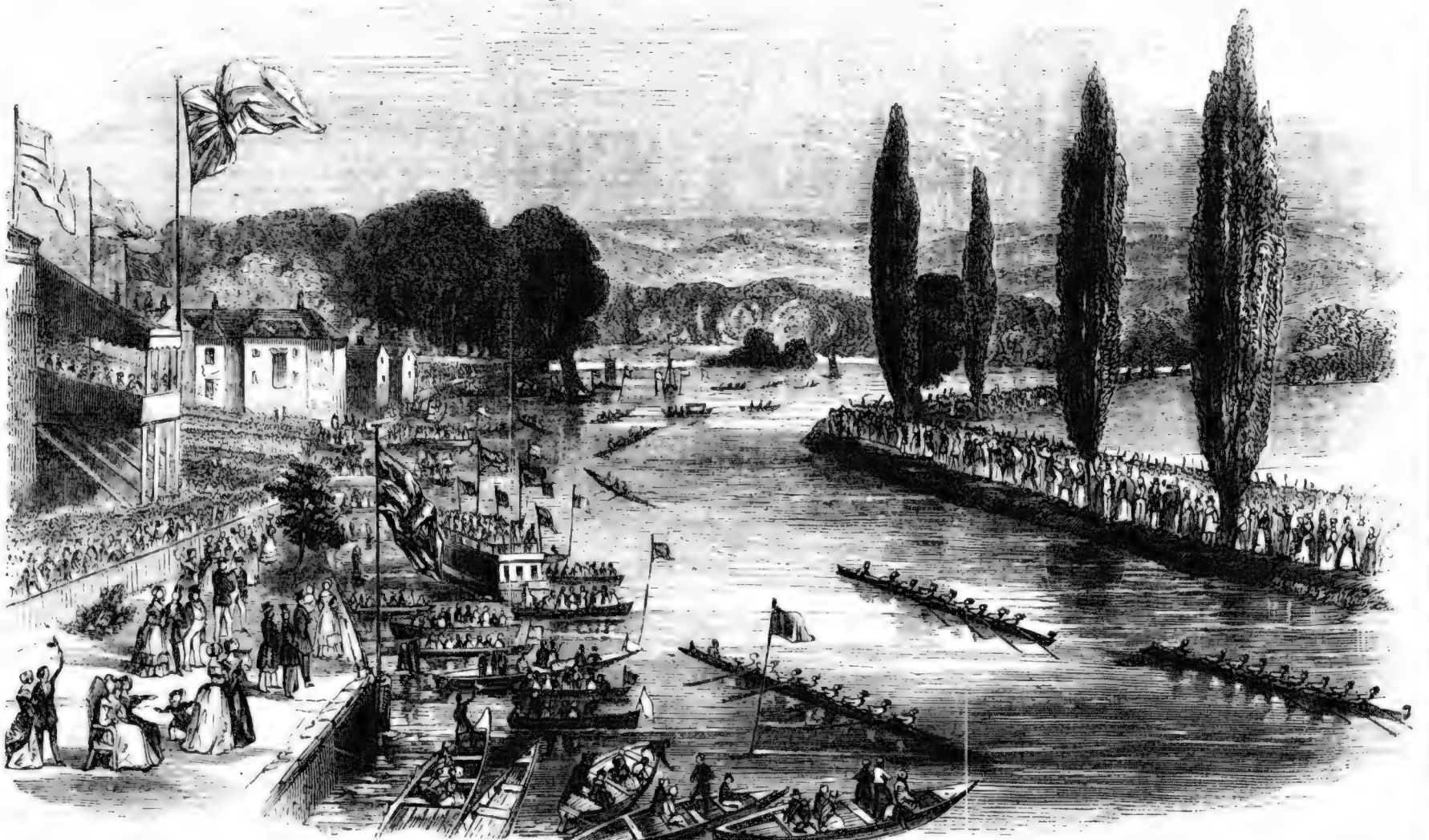
THE ARCHBISHOP OF LYONS has issued a mandate, in which he attributes the inundations to the violations in his diocese of the law of the church respecting the observance of the Sabbath.

EUPATORIA has been completely given up to the Russians, who have hoisted their flag there.



THE QUEEN'S VASE.

ASCOT RACING PLATE.—(SEE PREVIOUS PAGE.)



THE HENLEY REGATTA.—(SEE PREVIOUS PAGE.)

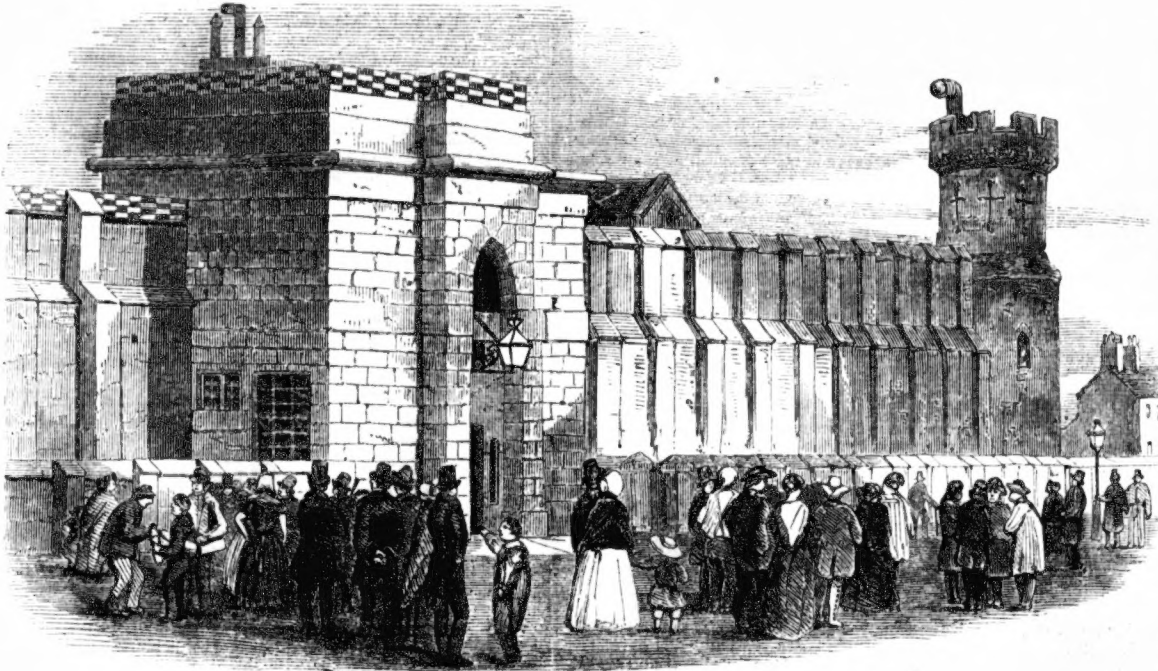
FASHIONS FOR JUNE.

For out-door costume, dresses of silk are decidedly in the majority; the weather not having yet been sufficiently warm to admit of the adoption of bareges, muslins, and the other light textures which usually predominate at the present season. In ordinary out-door dress, mantelets of black or of dark-coloured silk are very generally worn. They are, for the most part, trimmed with fringe, chenille, or quillings of ribbons, and occasionally, but not very often, with black lace. When black lace is employed it is very broad, and of a very costly description. A mantle, similar to that shown in our illustration, has been made of black silk, richly embroidered. Instead of fringe, the trimming consists of a deep fall of black Chantilly lace. As the season advances, it is expected that mantelets, made entirely of black lace, will be much worn for a superior style of out-door costume. In connection with black lace mantles, we must not omit to notice a novelty just introduced in Paris. It is, in fact, a close approximation to the real old Spanish *mantilla*, which was not unfrequently seen on the Prado of Madrid, even at the commencement of the present century. The mantillas now worn in Paris are made in the following manner:—A piece of black lace, about a yard deep, edged with a rich flowered border, and either sprigged or plain in the middle, is gathered up at the neck and fastened by a *ruche*, either of black satin ribbon or black silk pinked at the edges. This *ruche* has long ends which serve as strings for tying the mantilla at the throat. Over the broad lace there is a second fall, of about half a yard deep. The broad fall of lace forms the mantilla; the narrower fall is thrown over the head, descending on the forehead so as partially or wholly to cover the eyes. This Spanish mantilla is one of the most striking novelties of the season in Paris, where it is frequently worn by ladies when retiring from a ball or an evening party.

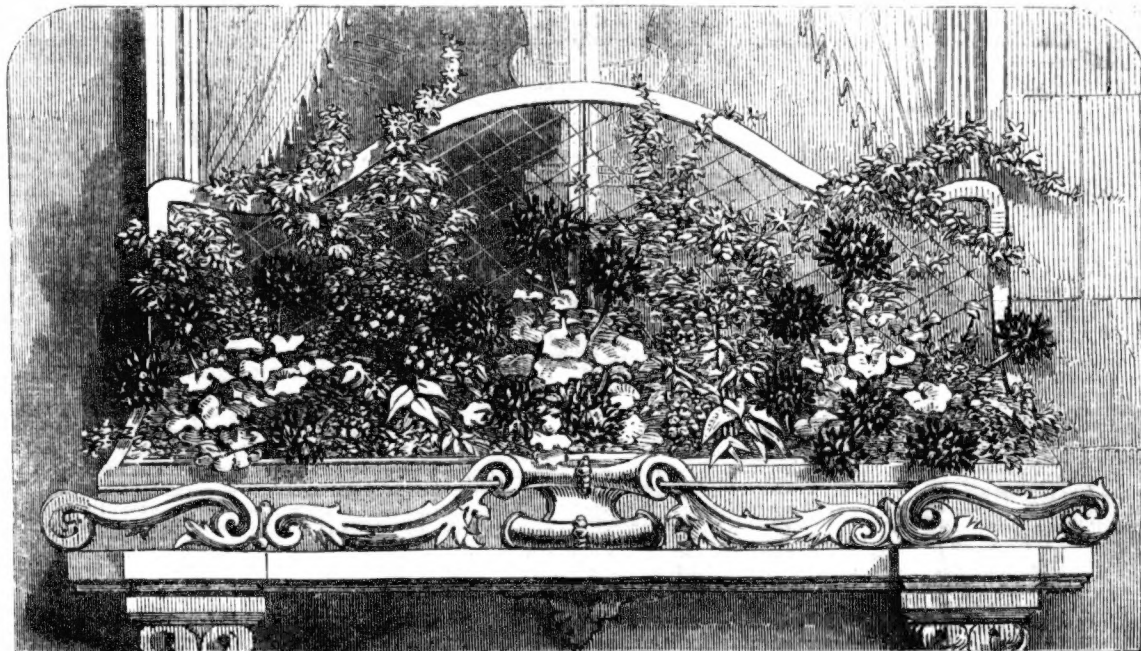
Tulle illusion continues to be the most favourite material for ball dresses. One has recently been made with three tunics, each edged with a wreath composed of white heath and white convolvulus. A dress of pink tulle has seven narrow flounces, pink and white, ranged alternately, and ornamented with small bouquets of moss roses. Another ball dress of white tulle has the skirt almost covered with bouillons, amidst which are interspersed sprigs of white and coloured lilac. A much admired ball-dress is of sky-blue tulle, with four double flounces, exceedingly full, and ornamented here and there by festoons of Venetian pearls, and stars of the same. The lady for whom this dress is ordered will wear with it a parure of fine pearls and diamonds. Finally, we may notice a robe of apricot colour. The skirt is composed of three tunics of double tulle illusion. Five rows of white blonde, figured with gold, and rounded at the ends like lappets, descend from the waist to the edge of the second tunic. The third, or



SUMMER FASHIONS—EVENING AND WALKING DRESSES.



THE GATEWAY OF STAFFORD JAIL.—(SEE NEXT PAGE.)



WINDOW GARDENING—A FLORAL WINDOW BLIND.—(SEE NEXT PAGE.)

undermost tunic, is ornamented with bows formed of strings of pearls and amber. The berthe and the trimming of the short sleeves are of blonde figured with gold. The head dress to be worn with this robe consists of barbes of blonde figured with gold, and strings of pearls and amber twisted in the hair.

Morning Dress.—Robe of worked jaconnet muslin. The edge of the skirt is finished by a broad hem. The front is worked in the *tablier* form, and at each side there is a frill edged with scalloped eyelet-hole work. The jacket corsage has a double basque and bretelles, ornamented with rich needlework. The ends of the sleeves are worked in a corresponding pattern. The neck-tie and bows on the sleeves, are of peach-colour sarsenet ribbon. At the back of the head, lappets of guipure, with bows and ends of peach-colour ribbon.

Dinner or Negligé Evening Dress.—Slip of pale pink glacé, under a robe of clear white muslin, richly ornamented with needlework, Valenciennes insertion, and lace. The skirt has three broad flounces, worked in a running flowered pattern, and slightly scalloped at the edges, where they are finished by an insertion of Valenciennes, and a row of lace set on full. The corsage, which has a deep basque, partially covering the uppermost flounce of the dress, is made high to the throat, where it is finished by a small collar of Valenciennes. Over the corsage is a fichu or pelerine with rounded ends, descending below the waist in front, and fastened in a point at the back of the waist. This pelerine is worked and edged with Valenciennes insertion and lace, corresponding with the flounces; bracelets of gold and topaz. At the back of the head, a small cap, composed of plaits of rose-colour velvet, and Venetian point; long lappets of Venetian point flow over the shoulders. We may mention that a dress precisely like that here described, has been made for her Majesty.

Carriage Costume.—Dress of pearl-gray moire, with a double skirt. Each skirt is cut out in scallops at the edge, and ornamented with embroidery in silk of the same colour as the moire. The corsage, which is high to the throat, and the sleeves, are ornamented, with embroidery in the same style. Mantelet of white embroidered silk, edged with a very broad fringe of white silk, intermingled with tassels, and headed with guipure. Bonnet of white crape, trimmed with rows of white blonde, and runnings of blue ribbon. On one side a bouquet of blue and white flowers. Inside trimming of the same flowers intermingled with ruches of tulle.

A CORNER FOR THE CURIOUS.—NO. 10.
BIRTH-PLACE OF WILLIAM COBBETT.

On the death of Cobbett, at Normandy Farm, near Farnham, in 1835, the "Times" newspaper remarked, "Take this self-taught peasant for all in all, he was, in some respects, a more extraordinary Englishman than any other of his time. 'Nitor in adversum' was a motto to which none could



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